

HONGKONG Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. L.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 12th of January, 1900, the wife of Captain H. G. YHRE (I. M. Customs), of a son.

On the 13th of January, 1900, at No. 14, Carter Road, Shanghai, the wife of CH. G. BAROTH, of a son.

At No. 75, Chapoo Road, Shanghai, on the 17th of January, 1900, the wife of A. R. SENNA, of a daughter.

On the 20th of January, 1900, at 1, Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon, the wife of H. Crombie, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 17th of January, 1900, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., the Rev. CHARLES ROBERTSON, of the London Mission, Wuchang, to JANE AITKENHEAD, second daughter of George McKENDRICK, Wishaw, N.B.

DEATH.

Died at the United States Consulate General, Hongkong, at 9 a.m. January 6th, 1900, Mrs. BERTHA ISABEL FOOTE, wife of Honorable W. W. FOOTE, of Oakland, California, and Aunt of Mrs. ROUSEVELLE WILDMAN.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 22nd December arrived per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, on the 20th January (29 days), and the German mail of the 13th December arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Oldenburg*, on the 25th January (44 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The article on "Shantung" is concluded in this issue. It has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

An Imperial decree has been issued announcing that the Emperor of China, Huang Hsu, resigns the throne, the nine-year old son of Prince Tuan being proclaimed Emperor by the Empress Dowager.

H.E. Li Hung Chang has taken over the seals of office at Canton.

Several piracies have taken place during the last week on the West and Canton Rivers.

Prince Henry, of Prussia, left Singapore homeward bound, on the 15th inst.

The *Akebono*, a new powerful Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer, has arrived here and left for Japan.

The contributions to the War Relief Fund in Yokohama amount to 9,979.65 yen with an additional £50 10s.

An Amateur Dramatic Club has been formed in Manila. The papers consider there is good local talent to draw from.

Prince Valdemar of Denmark has arrived at Hongkong in the cruiser *Valkyrien*. He will remain here for eight days on board his ship.

Messrs. Bois, Haroon, Brunat and Chapas have been elected Councillors for the French Concession at Shanghai for the coming year.

American troops have been dispatched from Manila to the Island of Leyte, to subdue the Insurrectos there and establish American rule.

His Excellency Hugh Clifford, the Governor of British North Borneo, arrived at Singapore on the 13th inst., and has left for Sandakan.

The steamer *Energia*, from Moji to Nagasaki, is reported to be ashore in the Obree Channel, Hirato Island. Assistance has been sent from Nagasaki.

Two more cases of unmistakable bubonic plague have occurred in Manila. Out of thirteen cases reported eight have proved to be bubonic plague.

Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. inform us that they received information that the *Airlie* is ashore at Cape Direction (E. Coast Australia, Torres Straits).

M. de Bezaure, the French Consul-General at Shanghai, together with the Chinese authorities, has been engaged in the delimitation of the new French concession at that port.

We learn that a Russian consulate will shortly be established in Hongkong, superseding the existing Consular agency, and the Consul appointed is now on his way here from St. Petersburg.

The University of Cambridge has conferred upon the Right Reverend the Bishop of Victoria the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, thus recognising the position of Dr. Hoare as a scholar and as a Colonial Bishop.

The Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce at Manila has decided to send a message to the U. S. Congress requesting the abolition of the present tariff and Customs dues, which, according to the old Spanish system, are actually in force.

The loss entailed by the recent fire at the Astor House, Shanghai, is roughly estimated at Tls. 6,000, and is borne by the China Fire and Royal Insurance Companies, the former losing Tls. 4,000 on the buildings and the latter the balance on fixtures and furniture.

J. N. Jordan, Esq., H.M.'s Representative at Seoul, writes that the British residents at the capital of Corea contributed 1,585 yen, and those in Chemulpo 269 yen, towards the Transvaal War Fund, the total amount in sterling being £189 5s. 3d.

The Osaka Fu authorities have introduced a bill to the Fu Sanjikai to appropriate yen 37,059.92, for the expense of engaging two hundred doctors to enforce health inspection, and it has been carried. The Home Minister informed the authorities that the Government would contribute yen 6,176.653 to the expense.

The new Ordinance for the Protection of Women and Girls (Hongkong) has been in operation but a short period, yet already a wonderful change has been effected. Several prosecutions under the Ordinance have already been instituted. In four cases fines of \$25 each have been imposed and in three cases each of the offenders have been fined \$50. Other summonses have been taken out.

At the Supreme Court, on Friday, Mr. N. Nervegna, of 31, Wyndham street, merchant, and at one time Acting Consul for Italy, was awarded a verdict in his favour in a libel action brought by him against Wong Shu Tong, of 14, Praya Central, as proprietor of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, and Ng Sai Yung, of Gough street, as printer and publisher of the said newspaper. He claimed \$19,000 damages, and the jury awarded him a verdict against both the defendants, damages \$11,370.

The French mail steamer *La Seyne* which, it will be remembered, ran ashore near Garra Light some days back when coming up from Batavia, was safely towed off the rocks by H. M. S. *Hermione* on Saturday, 13th inst. The mails and passengers had been previously brought on to Singapore. There was found to be little damage to *La Seyne*, and as she made little or no water it was decided to bring her to Singapore under her own steam. She arrived on the 13th inst., and was immediately docked at Tanjong Pagar. Beyond the bending of a few plates in the fore part of the ship, there is little damage done.

A comparative statement of the Stamp Revenue of Hongkong for the years 1898 and 1899 is published in the Government Gazette. The revenue in 1898 amounted to \$351,422.25 and in 1899 to \$338,698.3. As Pope said that tombstones "lift their heads and lie" we may say that there is nothing which lies as facts do, although they "are obols that winna dang an' daurna be disputed," while of all facts there are none more misleading than statistics. The returns show a gross increase of revenue from stamps in 1899 of \$71,422.70, or say twenty per cent over that of 1898, and a net increase of \$37,276. But we find among the items of increase one of \$41,217 on a revenue of \$28,121 from "Conveyance or Assignment" in 1898. This is no evidence of prosperity, it rather points to the reverse if it indicates anything at all. Again on the side of decrease we have an item of \$31,408 from "Probate or Letters of Administration," the revenue from that source in 1899 having been just half of that in 1898. The gross decrease for the year was only \$34,156, so that this one item forms almost the whole of it. Does that indicate a falling off in prosperity? If any conclusion is to be drawn from it, it is a favourable one; our citizens are not dying so fast; they are prosperous and prosperity is the best preservative of life. The other most noticeable items of increase are about five per cent. on Bank Note duty, six per cent. on Bills of Exchange, over eight per cent. from Mortgages, six per cent. on Policies of Insurance, fifty-six per cent. on Transfers of Shares, and ten per cent. on Adhesive Stamps.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 24th January.)

Englishmen are, perhaps, too apt to place the worst construction on everything done by Russia, and in contrasting the promises of her statesmen with the performances of her officials to attribute the discrepancy to innate bad faith. It is not to be denied that Russia has, on many occasions openly and deliberately broken faith, and it is unfortunately the case that Russia's diplomacy has come to be a synonym for untruth and prevarication, and yet it may be, and we believe frequently is the case, that Russia herself has been the deceived party; that she has set the ball rolling down hill with the best of intentions, but the increased velocity has proved too powerful for her weak control; and the object started in a safe or even laudable direction, has surmounted its track, and rushed as a devouring avalanche over her more civilised neighbours. Russia, in fact, has not yet learned peace; she is still in that stage of her development when war is her natural condition, and it is doubtful in what direction it will break out, and what character it will assume. It is indeed the invariable characteristic that is ever present to Russian statesmen, and compels them, frequently against their wills, to make these enormous warlike preparations, which in the end make Russia a terror to herself as well, or even more than to her neighbours. That Russia herself is conscious of these facts, and that a large and increasing party is sincerely bent on their amendment is indicated in many directions. Mr. De Witte's private memorandum, issued now rather more than a year ago, is an indication of what Russia's present statesmen do not fail to grasp. If the proverb be true that 'war begets war,' it is no less true that peace engenders peace, and Mr. De Witte's memorandum, evidently never intended to become the property of the world, is an indication that that statesman, dimly and indistinctly, it is true, and only half-consciously, had a sentiment of the fact. In a nation but just emerging from nomadism war is no burden; it is its normal condition—every man carries his life in his own hands, and is equally prepared to exercise his strength in attacking his neighbour or defending himself. But with the growth of industrial enterprise, all this becomes changed. The individual has, in addition to his person, acquired property, and property of a nature particularly obnoxious to attack. He is in fact more concerned in defending himself than in attacking his neighbour. So far saw Mr. De Witte. Russia had entered on an industrial pilgrimage; she desired no longer to be a dependent on her neighbours for her daily requirements, and her ambition was to produce them herself. But to produce them required capital, and her neighbours who held the purse-strings were chary and suspicious. There was thus every inducement for Russia to adopt a peaceful policy, and it would be wise for her to refrain from any offensive war till she had become self-supporting. What Mr. De Witte did not see, or if he saw studiously concealed, was that in entering on a career of industrial progress Russia was really giving hostages to posterity. But Mr. De Witte is but the spokesman of a large and growing class in Russia who see, though indistinctly, that the true interests of the country lie in fostering her own almost untouched resources rather than in overrunning her neighbours. This is probably the true reason for the Czar's predilection for

peace, and the strange and contradictory fact that while preaching peace to others Russia is herself on every side arming, and that all her industrial enterprises eventually point to war. This semi-conscious antagonism is well seen in the case of the Siberian Railway, regarding which it is difficult to decide whether merely warlike, political or industrial motives were predominant. The railway already has enabled Russia to fill her eastern territories with troops and Primorsk and Kwantung bristle with soldiery. It is certain that no Power had ever entertained the thought of displacing Russia in these regions, and beyond, ordinary garrisons, neither the well-being nor dignity of Russia was advanced by these bloated preparations. It is indicative of her present transitive state that they should have been found necessary, and their existence is harmful to Russia, in that they hamper and hinder her possession of these territories which really contain some of the finest and richest portions of the earth. What object seen from any civilised point of view has Russia, for instance, in overrunning Japan, but the mere lust of conquest? She would be in fact weaker and poorer for the acquisition, yet there are millions of Russians who look forward to a conquest of Japan as a worthy object of ambition. Again there are other millions who see in these eastern regions a field for increasing the wealth of the Empire by the development of their industrial capacities. The march of Russia across Siberia was brought about by natural events, and was marked by no atrocities. It was a gradual process of suppression. When she in 1860 made her appearance in maritime Manchuria she found the country a trackless and uninhabited wilderness, abandoned by its ancient inhabitants to the occupation of wild beasts. On his first visit in the seventies the writer found the benches a veritable museum, so thickly were they strewn with the skeletons of mammals, either the victims who had there been killed and partially devoured, or the hunters who in their eager chase had fallen over the precipitous cliffs, and had themselves become victims to the ardour of their pursuit. "Were our people but as advanced as yours in their abilities for colonisation, what a splendid acquisition would this country be," remarked to the writer the Governor General. But Russia had advanced quicker than she could assimilate, and the measures she took to colonise were none of the nicest. Banishment to Siberia as a punishment for political offences was not intended to be the barbarous atrocity it eventually became. Rather was it meant to foster the immigration of Russian blood into these deserted regions. The peasant was too indolent or too ignorant to voluntarily migrate, but the government wished to people the land. Had the system been carried out as was originally intended it might have had such a result, but it was from its beginning subject to abuse, and soon became an emblem of divert oppression. Still though slowly, Siberia did become peopled, and the marvellous richness of much of the new land, and its capacity for enriching the Empire could its productions only find an exit, began to be apparent. But it was unfortunate; to the north were the barren Tundras and the impassable Arctic Sea; to the south the deserts of Turkistan, inhabited by savage nomades; west the journey was long and tedious, and lay through trackless and inhospitable deserts; and eastward the unpromising highlands of Trans-Baikalia had to be overcome, only to arrive at a sea icebound for half the year. The grim Czar, NICOLAS I, who saw in the

dreary gusts of January and February his ablest generals was succeeded by a milder man who desired to emancipate as far as they could, holy Russia from the grip of the ice-king, and towards this end Russian diplomacy has year by year been more and more directed. The British Government and British people were generous and astute enough to see in this movement but the fulfilment of a natural and even laudable ambition. When Mr. A. J. BALFOUR in 1894 declared that the British Government would hail the approach of the Siberian Railway to Tientsin, he voiced the sentiment of the nation, and had Russia confined herself to a peaceful occupation, England was prepared to cordially co-operate. With the peculiar duality spoken of above which is characteristic of the nation in its transition state, while Tientsin was occupied for the peaceful object of being the commercial terminus of the railway, Port Arthur became a military fortress which it has been equally Russia's aim to ex and into a second Sebastopol. She has in fact not up to the present been able to divorce her advance from the military element, nor sufficiently awakened to the incongruity of the two. There is then no insincerity in the Imperial Rescript to Count MOURAVIEV, a telegraphic summary of which was published on the 15th instant, nor need we attribute to insidious councils the attribution of a steady military advance to peaceful councils. That the Czar NICOLAS II is sincerely desirous of peace may to a typical Russian seem quite consistent with an extension of her armaments, by sea and land; and we may reconcile his aims to secure the benefits of real, durable peace to all peoples while proclaiming the traditional ambition of Russia to attain an ice-free port. At all events in the pursuit of this her traditional policy she has been driven by the force of circumstances to adopt a policy which, of its very nature must predispose her to peaceful measures; and in her industrial progress at home and her railway extension in Asia, she has, however unconsciously, given pledges that for the future her progress at home and her influence abroad will more and more depend on her industrial development, rather than the extension of her boundaries by profitless annexation. A frank avowal of these conditions will do much to remove the misunderstandings to which the Rescript alludes, and assist in the development of her Oriental possessions to the mutual benefit of herself, England and Japan.

H.M.S. *Victorious* left Nagasaki on the 13th inst. for Weihaiwei.

A small ship, belonging to the French colony of Indo-China, but built in our Arsenal, according to a friendly agreement between the French and Chinese authorities, says the *Boohow Echo*, was launched on Monday last, the 8th inst. This ship is a kind of river tug-boat, specially intended to proceed up the rapids of the Me Kiang and the dimensions of which are, consequently, rather unusual. She is seventy feet in length and fifteen feet in breadth; her displacement is 50 tons, and her draught of water only three feet and a half. Her speed, on the measured miles, is up to about 12 miles an hour. She is furnished with two engines, developing 300 H.P., each of which gives motion to two screw-propellers on the same shaft, say four screws altogether. The hull is entirely made of steel, but sheathed with wood and copper, in order not to be broken through, in case the ship happens to touch a rock in the rapids. The engines and boiler as well as the hull have been built by the Arsenal in the course of the last five months, and it is hoped that the trials will take place before the end of January. The Commander of the Russian man-of-war was present at the launching.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, 23rd January.)

At a recent dinner given by the Article Club in London in honour of the Chinese Minister, now on a tour of commercial exploration among the larger industrial centres of England, an incident occurred which is deserving of more than passing notice. We read in the *London and China Express* that after remarks by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, Lord MORRIS, Mr. Justice KEKEWICH and other more or less well-known authorities on the Far Eastern question, a short speech by Mr. BYRON BRENNAN "was coldly received." The cheers that punctuated the periods of the preceding speaker, Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON, were wanting, and no applause greeted his efforts. "He was warned that his time was up." Now Mr. BYRON BRENNAN is a man who is known to most people in China for his wide knowledge of Chinese affairs, and more especially for his mature experience of the somewhat tortuous methods of Chinese officialdom in its dealings with trade, in particular British trade. Why then were the remarks of an expert, we may almost call him, on the subject under debate, "The Development of British trade with China," coldly received? A glance through Mr. JAMIESON's speech may perhaps supply the reason. Mr. JAMIESON spoke eloquently of the thousands of miles of railway we were allowed to build; of the concession we had obtained to work "one of the largest coal and iron fields in the world," of the development of commercial relations likely to accrue from the appointment of LI HUNG-CHANG as Minister of Commerce. The audience received the portions of his speech above quoted "with applause." And how did Mr. BRENNAN come to strike the only discordant note in this harmonious chorus of self-congratulation? He took exception in the first place to the title of the debate, "the Development of British Trade in China." That required no development. It only needed non-interference; it only required to be given a fair chance. "If the Chinese Government greatly desired to increase the revenue of trade, there was a simple way to do it. That was to leave trade to work out its own salvation, and to have an honest judiciary to whom in case of need merchants could appeal with confidence." These words are just, and to the point; they have the crowning merit of being true. Give us a fair chance is, we take it, the cry of the British merchant in China to-day; give us equal opportunity and open competition. We can look after the rest. It is perhaps more than a coincidence that the appointment of LI HUNG-CHANG as Commercial Minister, avowedly with the express object of negotiating an increase in the Tariff, should be simultaneous with the Chinese Minister in London's departure on his commercial tour. Is the latter preparing the way for the former? Can it be that his eloquent pleadings for sympathy with the sincere efforts his Government is now making to "develop commercial relations," to "open up the country," will lead up to a demand for a 10 per cent. duty *ad valorem*? Are the Chinese once more to stave off the inevitable by blinding the eyes of the British public with the golden dust of promise, and lulling them to forgetfulness with the siren song of earnest endeavour? It looks like it; but we have confidence in our representative at Peking, who has already proved himself on more than one critical occasion a wide-awake guardian of British interests in China. He will doubtless point out to the Chinese

Government that if they desire British assistance and support in their attempts to raise the wind they must first put their house in order, and give not empty promises, but tangible evidences of reform. Let them, if they want increased revenue, reorganize the administration of the salt tax; levy a duty on native opium; throw the carriage of tribute rice open to competition; engage foreign engineers to control the vagaries of the Yellow River once and for all; put the Chinese Telegraph system under the control of the Imperial Post, and before and above all, sweep away the horde of officials and underlings who fatten on the *likin* revenue and place the collection of this tax—if it cannot be dispensed with—in the hands of the Inspector General of Customs.

Then when an earnest attempt has been made to suppress piracy in the South and put down rebellion in the North, and when the murder of a British missionary calls forth much more than an Imperial expression of astonishment and regret, then, and then only, should we agree to an increased tax on foreign trade. Then the development of China, so eloquently depicted to the members of the Article Club, will really have begun.

THE PLAGUE.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

In spite of the most careful labour on the part of the Japanese doctors for the prevention of the introduction of plague into Japan; their systematic visitation of ships and personal inspection of passengers, so long continued with effect, yet having got a foothold the plague in Japan is increasing. The Japanese medical men are bravely and self-sacrificingly grappling with the dread disease, and already two have lost their lives in endeavouring to save its victims. When the mail left Japan there had been reported fifty-nine cases of plague of which only eleven had survived. Thirty-nine of these belonged to Osaka. The authorities of this town had taken the matter energetically in hand and had decided to employ three hundred doctors and enforce strict preventive measures. The form the pest has taken in Japan is not that which attacks people through abrasion of the skin, being thus comparatively slow in its development, but that which attacks the respiratory organs, against which the Yersin serum has been without effect, though it may possess preventive properties. The two doctors who succumbed attended a patient suffering, unknown to them, from this form of plague and they were consequently entirely unprotected and simply inhaled the disease. One plan the Japanese doctors have recommended in dealing with the plague is that the infected houses should be promptly destroyed, and it is pointed out that if this had been done in Kobe when the first case became known the disease would not have assumed its present dangerous proportions. Foreign medical men in Japan predict that if the plague in Osaka, one of the most densely populated cities in Japan, is not stamped out, it may spread among the inhabitants of that Empire, who as Asiatics are so liable to contract it, and it will become as great a scourge as it is in India to-day. Although all are thankful that the plague has apparently run its course in Hongkong, yet the colony is not entirely free from it, and no effort should be withheld by the authorities that tends to prevent its reappearance. A recent leading medical authority stated that the rat was the chief propagator of the disease, and our Sanitary Board have rightly started a crusade against these ver-

min. Though a monetary inducement has been offered the Chinese and traps supplied on loan to householders, only one rat within several days was presented at the office of the Sanitary Board. This would tend to show that the reward is not sufficient, though undoubtedly a good many of the vermin have been exterminated by the use of the traps supplied without the reward being claimed. Though the result is apparently disappointing yet it behoves the Sanitary Board to persevere, and promote energetically any means for the prevention of the disease that the Medical and Sanitary Officers approve. Above all the last meeting of the Board revealed the fact that the co-operation of the public in sanitary reform is not always easy to obtain. That is frequently an impediment but it may be overcome by a vigorous board, and such the new body has already developed symptoms of becoming. The dread of the effects of a future possible visitation of the plague—or any epidemic that an eastern population is so liable to—should have the effect of demanding the energetic co-operation of the community even if public spirit be no incentive.

BRITISH RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS IN ASIA.

(Daily Press, 25th January.)

What used to be said of the sea, that it bound the lands together, is now more especially true of railways. Such indeed has been the effect of railways within an ordinary lifetime that they may be said to have completely metamorphosed the political, social and commercial life of the world, and the position of the country may now be said to be estimated above all things else by the length and condition of its railways. First commenced as short links connecting neighbouring centres of population, as Stockton and Darlington, the pioneer of railway enterprise, the detached fragments got gradually linked up, till at last they came to connect kingdoms and finally continents. America led in the latter contest. The discovery of gold in California may be said to have been the actuating cause which led to the construction of a line uniting the Atlantic and Pacific across the newer continent, and as a sequence we now again find the nations bent on connecting the two great oceans, but this time through the oldest continent of all. Russia has indeed all but solved the problem in her gigantic Siberian Railway, but the example has produced emulation, and we now find Germany and England her competitors in the field. In the early forties, when railways were still in their early childhood, the idea presented itself to an English engineer of reopening with a line of railway the ancient route of traffic from Antioch to the Persian Gulf through the then wealthy valley of the Euphrates. It was a time when England was consolidating her great Indian Empire, and Lord PALMERSTON, one of her great prime ministers, was in power and cordially supported the scheme. It was before its time and never assumed a more practical form than surveys. Times changed, and, as we showed the other day, Germany entered into England's plan and finally obtained the concession of the line. The centre of British influence had in fact shifted from Constantinople to Cairo, and in the administration of Egypt, England had given another pledge to the world. It was, perhaps, inevitable that the fact should have excited jealousies at Constantinople, and it is quite possible that the Sultan might have fancied

a line, in so vital a portion of his dominions, in English hands an earnest of his own reduction to suzerainty. But Englishmen had long ago, before English enterprise had possessed itself of Egypt, also been planning an alternative route to the Persian Gulf through North Arabia; but the terrors of laying down a line through the then unknown desert led to the idea being rejected as chimerical. English engineers had, however, had some experience of laying lines through the deserts of Soudan, and political reasons led them to run similar lines through the trackless sands of upper Egypt. The result was favourable, the lines were easily and cheaply laid, and proved unexpectedly profitable. It was natural that Cairo should present itself as an ideal terminus. With lines extending within fifteen degrees of the equator at each side, the greater part of the intermediate country under British influence, a railway already approaching completion midway in Uganda, and three great navigable lakes ready to form links in the chain of communication till a railway without a break was feasible, a Cairo to the Cape Railway came into the world of practical politics, and may now be said to be a certainty of the near future. But if a Cape to Cairo Railway, extending through sixty-five degrees of latitude from 30 north to 35 south, were feasible, there were other and far less formidable ventures waiting to be taken up nearer home. One of these, it possible more far reaching than Mr. Rhodes' line to the Cape, was presented to the British public by Mr. C. A. MOREING in the *Nineteenth Century* magazine for September last, and consisted in a proposed line from the Suez Canal to Akaba, at the head of the Gulf of the same name, and from there to Koweyt in Turkish territory near the head of the Persian Gulf, a port of some importance, and commanding the embouchure of the united waters of the Tigris and Euphrates. From Ismailia to Akaba is something under 200 miles, and from Akaba to Koweyt some 800 to 900. The route lies through Nefood, itself indeed a sandy desert, but with settled districts north and south, and somewhat difficult negotiations would have to be entered into with the tribes on the way. England is, however, paramount in Egypt, and has a preponderating influence in the Gulf of Persia, and in consequence is in a position to treat on favourable terms. The engineering obstacles are not greater than have been overcome in upper Egypt. Koweyt is some 70 miles from Bassa, where the German concession of the Euphrates is to end so that a junction can be easily effected. At all periods of history the lower part of the Mesopotamian Valley has been of importance, as there has concentrated the trade of Egypt and the Levant with Persia and India. It is now of more importance than ever, as there the stream of traffic will in all probability be joined by that of Russia. It will readily be seen that the proposed line, so far from being an opponent, will actually tend to become a feeder of the German and Russian systems. All this is pointed out by Mr. GERALD F. TALBOT in a letter to the *Times*, which is well worth careful perusal. But there is more. Once arrived at Bassa, a line along the north coast of the Persian Gulf connecting through Beluchistan with Karachi must follow almost as a matter of course, and this would go through territory acknowledged as within the sphere of England's influence. It is something to find that so able an engineer as Mr. ARTHUR BARRY has favourably endorsed the scheme, which it is now to be hoped will be taken up energetically in England.

Mr. A. OKEING's scheme, however, does not end with its connection with the Indian lines, but takes up their proposed junction with Burmah and China. This, however taken in conjunction with proposed Russian extensions in Asia, is of too much interest and importance to be tagged on at the end of an article, and we propose to revert to it in a subsequent issue.

OCASIONAL NOTES.

Many of your readers, Mr. Editor, will be pleased with the assurance of the ancient Viceroy that he willingly accepted the co-operation of the British in suppressing piracy on the West River. Considering that only a few days ago a party of British bluejackets were fired on and one wounded, and that British boats have been held up and pirated, Li's acceptance of such an offer is benevolent and impressive. It is one way, a very graceful way, of ducking out of his responsibilities. Henceforward he will always have the feasible excuse to send to Peking, if the piracy continues, that even the British are unable to suppress it after he had given them a *carte-blanche*. How exceedingly amiable—that instead of reprisals being threatened, the conversation over the sherry and bitters should merely hinge on affectionate co-operation.

Li will welcome all the co-operation providing it is harmonious and inexpensive. As a rule the Viceroys among themselves don't co-operate, but prefer to run their viceregal institutions on their own merits. During the China-Japan war a considerable number of men-of-war lying idle on the Whangpoo, the Yangtse, and at southern ports would have turned the scale at Yalu had they been present, but they were not. The only excuse for their absence was that the owners of these vessels of war, the Viceroys, had paid for those ships, and you don't suppose they were going to see their ships—the outcome of so many hard squeezed taels—blown to pieces because their northern confrère was, metaphorically, up a gum-tree. Not much, and so those vessels float to-day at their moorings in all their power and glory—frequently a danger to riverine navigation—but still they float, and while they do that they do not require replacing—a costly, and to the viceregal mind, an altogether unnecessary proceeding.

While the police work on the West River is left to two small British gunboats, which cannot possibly be at the most likely piratical spots at the same time, I counted no less than six Chinese gunboats, with several launches, on Sunday last, anchored near Causeway Bay. They had evidently—on the Viceregal principle of let him keep who can—come to Hongkong for safety fearing no doubt in Chinese waters the possibility of being boarded by pirates. There are men in the memory of Li, before whom, as the representatives of Britain's power in China he would have trembled in mentioning the word co-operation in regard to his initial duty.

It is a great pity the British do not act in the spirit and on the advice of your leader, Mr. Editor, and secure either the ringleaders in the attack on the man of war pinnacle, or destroy the village. Gunboat policy, which has in past appeared so convincingly to the Chinese official, would exercise a wholesome influence for good on the individual. Surely, considering the state of abject incompetency Chinese officialdom is in, or abject cowardice, whichever you prefer, it is the duty of some British official to exert a little salutary influence?

A friend of mine in Manila, who has resided there for some years, draws a comparison between that old city now and what it was in days of Spanish rule. Personally, he prefers life under the old conditions. The cost of living, at the expense of luxury, has increased tremendously. He is ever fervent in his prayers for the settlement of the Filipino question, but like the war in the Transvaal, a happy and peaceful consummation of his wishes appears to be a long way off. "Agie" (i.e. Aguinaldo) he says, "has migrated south, and there is a few expedition-looking for him." Aguinaldo is certainly one of the most moving personages in recent history!

The action of the Sanitary Board in starting a crusade against rats is no doubt very wise, and one which will commend itself to the housewife and also to the Cantonese epicure. If those stories about the Canton markets be allowed a bearing, it is both generous and brave of the Sanitary Board, because the wholesale accumulation of rats, "dead or alive oh" in their immediate vicinity will doubtless increase the premiums on the life-policies of the staff. In Shanghai they could deal very comfortably with the rat-catching industry, because through the morbid eloquence of two or three old stoics, they have built unto themselves an expensive and elegant crematorium (with a chapel attached that by some mistake or other was consecrated) at enormous expense, though as none of the promoters are anxious to get incinerated, the stoker-in-chief has a sinecure in the way of a billet. Still the crematorium adds considerably and impressively to the architectural aspect of Shanghai, so much so that rents in its immediate vicinity have not declined—but the reverse.

However, when the stock of rats at the Sanitary Board Offices grows sufficiently large enough, no doubt, it will be well to bear the cremating facilities of our northern port in mind and forward a consignment. By the way, although I promptly borrowed some traps from the Sanitary Board, my house boy is not rushing matters. I have an idea that he is waiting for the rats to rise, "twenty cash being too much for small." Yet even it is to be devoutly hoped the enterprising Celestial won't import from outside any rats wholesale to get the two cents apiece, but that of course depends a good deal upon its market price elsewhere.

Since penning the above I have discovered one reason why the Sanitary Board have only secured one rat. Like an earnest citizen I promptly borrowed two traps from the Board, and the "boy" triumphantly informed me that he had caught two rats, and fine healthy specimens of their kind too, they were. There was no plague about them! On asking the "boy" the following morning whether he had claimed the four cents reward, greatly to my horror—it was just before breakfast—he pointed to two adornments on the kitchen wall, being the rats skinned and dressed, which he said the chair-coolies were going, in due season—or after the rats had been duly seasoned—to masticate! Thus the problem that presented itself to my mind was, supposing those two rodents (the name sounds better as an article of diet) possess plague germs, and the coolies eat them shall I and the Sanitary Board (for the responsibility will be mutual), be answerable for the untimely decease of those coolies? I shall really welcome the opinion of the Hon'ble the Attorney-General on the subject.

The entertainment given by the officers and men of H.M.S. *Bonaventure* in Shanghai added to the Patriotic Fund the splendid sum of \$1,277, thus bringing the total realised by the two entertainments to \$2,922. Surely the numerous men-of-war in Hongkong will not allow the *Bonaventure*—a second class cruiser at that—to carry off all the laurels?

OBSERVER

A fire broke out on Friday night, 14th inst., in the compound of No. 13 Bund, Yokohama occupied by Messrs Oppenheimer Freres. The building containing the servant's quarters was the scene of the outbreak, and this was completely destroyed, the actual amount of damage being some 2,000 yen in all, which was covered by insurance in the Union Fire Insurance Company.

The *Jimmie*, a Japanese paper, arrives at the conclusion that England is the only Power in the world which could accomplish what it is now doing in South Africa. It laughs at the *Tageblatt's* criticism that the day of England's decline has dawned; predicts with confidence that she will annex the two republics, or, at any rate, that her programme of expansion in South Africa will suffer no check, and points to her Navy which remains the most powerful engine of war in the world, enabling her to make stupendous efforts like this South African campaign, and to shake all nations by a display of her might.

THE PROVINCE OF SHANTUNG.

ITS TRADE, POPULATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.
(Concluded.)

CAUSES OF POVERTY.

That Shantung at present is a poor country it appears unnecessary to advance any further proof. The Yellow River is an exceptional burden, but yet it does not effect more than 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. of the entire population. The province suffers obviously from natural and unpreventable causes such as locusts, drought, excessive rains, hail and a succession of bad harvests. This poverty we can trace directly to causes physical, political and industrial, any one of which are in themselves sufficient to sap the life blood out of a human being. The principal of these causes are, to my thinking, as follows, namely, physically the large extent of barren and unproductive mountain soil and the very bad state of the public highways making distribution and exchange of commodities difficult, costly and slow. Consequently, the difficulty of emigration, thus making land incredibly dear, and over populated in some places, and desolate and valueless in other places. Politically, 'squeezing' by officials and a general feeling of distrust, so disastrous in commercial undertakings, has much to do with the poverty of the province. As an instance of the ill-advised policy in one of these respects I was informed that nearly all the foreign goods sold in Ichow-fu came from either Tiger Head or Chefoo via Wei Hsien, thus involving an overland haul of from 700 or 1,100 li, whereas the great mart of Tsing-Kiang'pu on the Grand Canal is distanced only 460 li, and other ports on the same waterway, such as Yaowan and Tai'er chuang, are only about 200 li from Ichowfu. The local magistrate gives as the main cause of this anomalous fact that the cheapness of water transportation is offset by the numerous and extortionate lekin 'squeezes' on the Grand Canal, there being no less than three large barriers and ten smaller ones between Chinkiang and Tsing-Kiang'pu, a distance of about 360 li, so that it becomes cheaper to transport goods overland from Chefoo, where they get the advantage of steam-r freight rates and a single honest Customs charge from the Imperial Maritime Customs. At the larger of the three lekin barriers they charge eighty cash per 100 catties of opium, and the others from 50 to 60 cash per 100 catties. About the same rates are charged for cereals, except Kiang-nan rice, which is free. They could not tell me what is charged on imports, as 'foreign goods' are rated according to p'iao-tze (bills of lading) furnished by the Imperial Maritime Customs. The industrial cause to the hindrance of prosperity is, I think, that the people of Shantung are almost wholly dependent upon the soil and agriculture for their livelihood, and, consequently, when crops give out disaster stares them in the face. Likewise their inability to manufacture anything, and their utter ignorance of mechanics. Even their straw braid trade they are losing because they will not take the trouble to supply the market with braid up to their samples.

THE NECESSITY OF ROADS AND RAILWAYS.

Let us now turn to the other side of the question and take a glance at Shantung as it might and should be, and here it is necessary to state that every improvement is dependent upon two things, namely, the building of railways and the reconstruction of the public highways upon a proper system. Without these innovations it will always be impossible to revive trade, which in some commodities is slowly but surely decreasing, or to transport the mineral wealth of this province when its treasures are unearthed. A very brief and superficial geological survey of this country discovered to me coal of a first-class quality and in abundance, iron, copper, silver, gelena, asbestos and mica, the latter in vast deposits; but just at present I shall refrain from making further mention of these. Let it suffice to say that they are to be found. The route for the line of railway which I surveyed in 1896, namely, from Kiaochow bay to Tsinanfu, is the very one now to be constructed by German enterprise, and it will be a paying one. The points to

be touched by the "iron road," as the Chinese call it, should be starting from the new port first of all, Wei Hsien (36 deg. 40 min. N.L., 119 deg. 10 min. E.), which, as I said before, is the Clapham Junction of the province, then Tsing Chow-fu, the ancient capital, Chih Ch'wan, from which a branch line must run up the Laufu Valley to the coal mines of Poshan, a distance of less than twenty miles. Here are situated extensive potteries and glass manufactories, which employ over two-thirds of the population of Poshan and Yenhsing Hsien. From Chih Ch'wan the line should pass by Tsouping, and thence to the capital, Tsinan-fu (36 deg. 50 min. N. lat. 117 deg. E. long.). Now let me come to 'hard facts,' and briefly set forth the advantages of this route. First of all Tsinan-fu is the Provincial Capital, and its trade is the largest. The cities of Tsouping Tsing Chowfu and Wei Hsien and all great head centres of trade; they are the marts to which the produce of the surrounding districts is brought and sold and from which it is redistributed, and a traveller has ocular evidence every day of the vast passenger traffic (comprising officials with their large retinues and merchants) to and fro between these towns. In 1895 I was informed by natives, rich and poor, that they would gladly use a train as a means of locomotion had they one, which, indeed, is not to be wondered at when we take into account the fact that a journey occupying, say, two days with its accompanying necessary expenditure of money on hotel accommodation and consequently enhanced price of food could be performed in almost so many hours and at one quarter of the cost. The consideration of time does not appear to appeal to these people. Now as to freight, I must mention the following facts which are conclusive as to the desirability from every point of view of connecting the trade centres in this province by rail.

A.—The freight rate from Wei Hsien to Kiaochow, a distance of 70 English miles, is 7 large cash per catty. This is the Hong Cheng catty, equal to lbs. 125 avoirdupois. Thus for 1,600 catties—1 ton of 2,000 lbs.—we have a freight rate of 11,200 large cash, which in 1895 equalled about \$11 Mexican.

B.—From Wei Hsien to Tsingchowfu—a distance of 40 English miles—the rate is 5 large cash per catty. This gives 8000 large cash, which, at the rate above quoted, gave \$8 Mexican per ton. Hence, from Tsing Chow-fu to Kiaochow, a distance 330 li or 110 English miles, the freight rate is \$19 Mexican per ton.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The foregoing figures are fairly representative of the Shantung freight rates; but I must mention that they only hold good in the spring and autumn. During the rainy season and winter months they do not hold good, but must be increased according to the exigencies of the weather and roads. The line which I have just referred to and which is to be constructed will no doubt be continued to Tai An-fu and Ichow-fu, and I believe the latter city is to be connected directly with Kiaochow, say, thus a circle will be formed. The towns situated more to the west make the Grand Canal their "Appian Way." The new open port at Tsing-tau, which is situated at the entrance to Kiaochow bay, has a very desirable location, and, geographically speaking, the bay has everything in its favour and should become a large commercial port. Of course, money must be expended and dredging at certain places. The soundings, I may mention, are in some places very uneven. Still the only thing to my mind which can mar the success of our German friends' new colony is too much officialdom. The gentleman with the brass buttons must not be too much in evidence. He is the only one who can wreck the new Far Eastern venture of the Fatherland. The Chinese authorities had intended at some time to fortify Kiaochow bay and make it the headquarters of the Pei-ang Squadron, but the time never came. The bay and waters outside are very free from fogs, which is a great consideration to mariners, who for many months yearly experience this dreaded enemy while running between Shanghai and Chefoo. As to the untapped sources of wealth, the hills, which are so unproductive when viewed from the standpoint of the husbandman

are, we know, plentifully endowed with buried wealth. Coal, iron, silver, gelena, gold, copper, asbestos, cinnabar, and mica are known to exist, while at Ichow-fu, it is said, diamonds have been found. All these lie merely awaiting the time when the development of the province upon sound lines begins. Then, indeed, will fortunes smile upon the poor half-starved labourer of Shantung. Secured against famine by the introduction of steam locomotion and with an honest day's labour, with its accompanying financial results, always open to him, the condition of his now miserable and wretched existence will indeed be altered. But this is so widely known and understood that further comment upon my part is needless. No matter how things, political or commercial, may go, it will take many years of hard and conscientious work to bring about anything like *desideratum* not only in Shantung, but all over China. There is no panacea for the sick man of the Far East, no short path to success. Nothing but persistent effort will achieve the desired results.

M. O'S.

SUPREME COURT.

19th January.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

CONSPIRACY TO CHEAT AND DEFRAUD.

Pang Hing Yan and Pang Tak Ying came up for sentence. There were three counts in the indictment, viz., (1) forging a deed with intent to defraud (both prisoners); (2) personating with intent fraudulently to obtain certain property (second prisoner); (3) conspiracy to cheat and defraud (both prisoners).

Mr. Francis said the prisoners had pleaded guilty to the misdemeanour charged in the information filed by the Attorney-General that they on the 24th of October, 1898, at Victoria, in this Colony unlawfully did amongst themselves conspire, combine, confederate, and agree together falsely and fraudulently to cheat and defraud one Pang Sui Chung of certain valuable property, to wit, the undivided moiety of and in a certain piece of ground and premises known and registered in the Land Office as section 1 of island Lot 202. He had to appeal to his Lordship on the defendants' behalf for his most merciful consideration of the offence with which they had pleaded guilty and to ask his Lordship to inflict upon them the lightest punishment he reasonably could in consideration of the circumstances out of which the transaction arose. Mr. Francis called his Lordship's attention to the facts stated in the depositions and the affidavits which had been filed, showing that the offence had arisen out of some family dispute. Concluding, he observed that if his Lordship would condescend to refer to the complainant in the case she would say that she was prepared to recommend the prisoners to his Lordship's merciful consideration. Under the circumstances she did not desire to press for any severe punishment, and he was sure his Lordship would take that into consideration. He would respectfully submit to his Lordship that, no mischief having actually been done, and considering that the whole matter had arisen out of some family trouble, he would see his way to inflict a fine instead of imprisonment. These men had been in prison since their first arrest, and he thought his Lordship could easily understand that men in their position had suffered, and must necessarily suffer, very severely, apart from any punishment his Lordship might inflict upon them, in consequence of their public accusation their imprisonment during the past month, and their having openly in court had to confess their offence.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, for the prosecution, said he regretted to say in this case that he must ask his Lordship to inflict the extreme penalty of the law for this misdemeanour. It was only in consideration of the fact that this was more or less a family affair that he consented not to go on with the first two charges, but to accept his friend's plea of guilty on behalf of the defendants on the third charge. At the same time, with all respect to his friend,

he must say that his friend had been attempting that morning to do what he said on Thursday he would not do, and, that was to say, he was really attempting to put forward that there was no wicked or criminal intention on the part of the defendants in what they did. It seemed to him that that was an exact contradiction of the charge to which they had pleaded guilty, because they were distinctly charged in the third count "that they unlawfully did amongst themselves conspire, combine, confederate, and agree together feloniously and fraudulently to cheat and defraud," etc.

On passing sentence, his Lordship said—There are circumstances in this case to which I think it my duty to call attention. On 14th November, 1899, a writ was issued in the Original Civil Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court on behalf of a little boy named Pang Sui Cheung by his next friend against the two prisoners as defendants, praying that a deed of assignment, dated 24th October, 1898, purporting to be an assignment by the first prisoner of an undivided moiety of Section 1 of Inland Lot No. 202, should be declared fraudulent on the ground that the assignee, who purported to be the little boy plaintiff, was personated by the second prisoner, and that the deed should be cancelled and the registration thereof at the Land Office should be vacated and the interest of the first prisoner in the property as trustee for the little boy should be assigned and invested in some other trustee for him. In other words, it was suggested that the first prisoner had, in reality, assigned to the second prisoner the property of the little boy with a view to cheat the child out of the land to which he was entitled as beneficiary. On the 6th December, 1899, Mr. Reece, the solicitor for plaintiff, applied to me for a decree in the civil suit, by consent of defendants, practically in terms of the writ, and filed the following document as an exhibit:—

"We the undersigned Pang Hing Yau, of No. 7 Pottinger Street, Victoria, Hongkong, shroff, and Pang Tak Ying, of No. 177 Hollywood Road, Victoria, aforesaid, trader, hereby consent to the inure of assignment bearing date the 24th day of October, 1898, and expressed to be made between Pang Hing Yau of the one part and Pang Sui Cheung (in fact personated by Pang Tak Ying, of the other part, of one undivided half part or share of and in Section 1. of Inland Lot No. 202 being set aside and cancelled and to the registration thereof at the Land Office being vacated, and to all the estate and interests of Pang Hing Yau in the said half part or share being assigned to or vested in Pang Tam Shi, or some other trustee or trustees for the benefit of her son, Pang Sui Cheung

"Dated this 3d day of November, 1899."
Witness, J. F. Reece, Signed in Chinese by
Solicitor, Hongkong. Pang Hing Yau
Interpreted, etc., etc. and Pang Tak Ying.

I found, however, that criminal proceedings against the two prisoners were proceeding at the time at the Magistracy, and I had my suspicions that, when my decree had been obtained the criminal proceedings would be dropped and that the charges of forgery and conspiracy might not be proceeded with. I could not understand otherwise, why, pending a remand at the Magistracy, Mr. Reece, the solicitor for the prosecution, should have interviewed the prisoners with his interpreter and obtained from them a document so fatal to their chance of defending themselves, especially as the prisoners were defended by a solicitor; at all events from 6th November. The investigation of the charge at the Magistracy was commenced on 25th Oct., 1899, and there were a great many remands. The prosecution was a private one, and I deemed it my duty to call the attention of the Attorney-General to the matter so that any attempt to hush up the criminal aspect of the case, if a crime had really had been committed, in consideration of the cancellation of the deed, should not succeed without the consent of some responsible officers. In the event the case was committed for trial and the two prisoners pleaded guilty yesterday to the third count, which alleges that they conspired and agreed together on 24th October, 1898, falsely and fraudulently to cheat and defraud, the little boy, Pang Sui Cheung, out of his undivided moiety of the land known as Sec-

tion 1 of Inland Lot 202. Now, when one looks at the deed of the 24th October, 1898, it is clear that the document is a fraudulent conveyance. It recites, *inter alia*, that the first prisoner is trustee to assign the property to Pang Sui Cheung on his attaining manhood. The first prisoner, therefore, knew he was a trustee. Is further recites that Pong Su Cheung had attained the age of twenty-one years and had requested the first prisoner to assign to him. As a matter of fact, this was a falsehood, for the little boy is now only seven or eight years of age, but to carry through the fraud the second prisoner personated the boy and became a party to the deed, as if he had been the boy grown up to manhood. Of course, after registration at the Land Office, which was duly effected, the deed being duly drawn up at the solicitor's office, there was nothing to prevent the second prisoner from assigning the property to a purchaser and going off with the money. Fortunately, however, this has not been done. I adjourned the case yesterday to allow of affidavits in mitigation of sentence being filed. The prisoners have, respectively, filed an affidavit each accordingly. The first prisoner alleges that he had no fraudulent intent, but executed the deed at the request of Pang Kong, the father of the little boy. Pang Kong died last May, and I am not aware of any evidence which I believe in support of this charge against his memory. The second prisoner alleges in his affidavit that he was only eighteen years old on 24th October, 1898, and that he executed the deed under the influence of his mother and uncle (since deceased) and in entire ignorance of what he was really doing. But the deed recites that the boy whom he personated had arrived at manhood, and though I am willing to make some allowance in consideration of the second prisoner's age, I believe he knew perfectly well he was a party to a wicked and fraudulent proceeding. I will deal with the case under Ordinance 14 of 1894, and of course, sentence the prisoners only on the count to which they have pleaded guilty. The sentence on the first prisoner is two years imprisonment with hard labour; and on the second prisoner as he is young the sentence will be one year's imprisonment, with hard labour.

Mr. Francis—Until your Lordship mentioned it, I had not the slightest idea of what had taken place.

24th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND
A SPECIAL JURY.

ALLEGED LIBEL BY A CHINESE
NEWSPAPER.

In this case U. Nerregna, of Wyndham Street, merchant, claimed from Wong Shu Fong, of 14, Priya Central, as proprietor of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, and Ng Sai Jung, of 39 Gough Street, as printer and publisher of the said newspaper, damages for libel.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs J. Orange (foreman), F. D. Goddard, D. W. Craddock, V. A. Caesar-Hawkins, John Thurburn, A. Turner, and E. Osborne. It was agreed that the jurors should be remunerated at the rate of \$10 a day each.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Mouney and Brutton) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Robinson and Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Eweus), appeared for the defendants. Mr. Robinson for the first defendant and Mr. Francis for the second.

The evidence for the defence was given.

Mr. Slade read the pleadings in the case. Paragraph 3 of the petition said, "The plaintiff on or about the 24th March, 1897, was appointed merchant consul for Italy without salary for Hongkong, and in the beginning of July 1898, was further appointed merchant consul for Italy without salary for the two provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangai, in the empire of China." Paragraph 4 said, "In the beginning of August, 1898, the plaintiff at his own request was relieved of his office of consul for the said provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangai, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Ginda, and on or

about the 6th June, 1899, was relieved of his office of consul for Hongkong and was succeeded by Mr. E. Volpicelli, a member of the regular Italian interpreter service." Paragraph 5 said, "During the time in which the plaintiff was acting as Italian consul as aforesaid the plaintiff carried on and still carries on his business as a merchant dealing in coals and general merchandise, and trading largely with Chinese customers in Canton and in Wuchow and other ports on the West River." Paragraph 6 said, "On the 9th day of June, 1899, the defendants falsely and maliciously printed and published or caused to be printed and published of the plaintiff, in respect to the plaintiff in his said business as a merchant, in the said newspaper called the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, which has a wide circulation in Hongkong and Canton and adjacent ports and in the ports and districts adjacent to the West River, the following words in the Chinese language." Then followed the words complained of. Paragraph 7 said, "The following is a translation of the said words:

"We learn that a certain merchant who has once acted as Italian Consul at Canton has in consequence of certain affairs been reprimanded and dismissed. Recently the said merchant has conspired with the Chinese to work a certain coal mine, and relying on the protection of a foreign flag resisted and refused to pay lekin. This the high authorities have found out from enquiries made, and decided to thoroughly investigate the matter. It is not known what may happen afterwards."

The said words were so understood by those to whom they were published, and mean that the plaintiff in his business and as Italian consul has been guilty of dishonourable and dishonest practices, and has on account of such practices been dismissed in disgrace from his office of consul; that the plaintiff and the Chinese with whom he had business relations had been guilty of a conspiracy to defraud, and in fact defrauding the revenue of the Imperial Chinese Government; that the high authorities of the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangai—meaning thereby the Viceroy of Canton and his ministers—found this out, and in consequence caused the plaintiff to be dismissed from his office of consul; that enquiries were still being prosecuted into the action of the plaintiff and his Chinese associates; and that it was not yet known what punishment would be inflicted on the Chinese who should be found to have had business relations with the plaintiff, and the whole paragraph purports to be and was understood by the readers thereof to be issued or inspired by the said high authorities as a notice and as a warning to persons intending to deal with the plaintiff that the plaintiff and the persons dealing with him had incurred their displeasure; and that the plaintiff had been in consequence degraded from his official rank at their instance; that persons who had dealt with the plaintiff had rendered themselves liable to punishment; that the plaintiff in consequence of his degradation was now a person of no account, and could no longer obtain any protection from the Italian flag; and that any person having business relations with the plaintiff would be liable to be suspected of illegal proceedings, and to incur the displeasure of the said high authorities." Paragraph 8 said, "On the date of the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants one An Lap Sam had given to the plaintiff orders for 5,000 rifles, but in consequence of the said publication the said An Lap Sam refused to complete the said order, whereby the plaintiff has suffered damage to the amount of \$5,000." Paragraph 9 said, "At the date of the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants, the Kwong Tung Sun Tai firm had given to the plaintiff orders for 2,000 barrels of cement, 3,000 revolvers, and 400 casks of nails, but in consequence of the said publication the said firm has refused to complete the said orders, whereby the plaintiff has suffered damage to the amount of \$1,970." Paragraph 10 said, "Prior to the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants, the plaintiff had considerable business transactions with the said Kwong Tung Sun Tai firm, from which he had derived large profits, and the said firm would have continued to deal with the plaintiff and the plaintiff to derive large profits, but owing to the said publication the said firm refused to have any further transaction with the plaintiff,

and the plaintiff has lost the profits which he would otherwise have made thereby, and Chinese merchants and traders in Canton and the West River ports are afraid to deal with the plaintiff, and the plaintiff has been seriously injured in his credit and reputation and in his said business as a merchant, and claims \$12,000 damages. The plaintiff, therefore, prays (1) that the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff \$18,970; (2) that the plaintiff may have such further and other relief as to this honourable court may seem fit." In their answer the defendants said they had no personal knowledge of and did not admit the facts alleged in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the petition. Paragraph 4 of the answer said, "The defendant Ng Sai Yung admits having printed and published in the *Tsun Wan Yat Po* newspaper the Chinese words set out in paragraph 6 of the petition, but he has no knowledge and does not admit that they refer to the plaintiff, and further says that if such words do refer to the plaintiff that they are not libellous in their natural signification, and denies that they bear the defamatory meaning alleged in paragraph 7 of the petition. He does not admit the correctness of the translation into English contained in paragraph 7 of the petition." Paragraph 5 of the answer said, "The defendant Wong Shu Tong denies having printed or published the Chinese words set out in paragraph 6 of the petition, and save as aforesaid for further answer relies on the allegations contained in paragraph 4 hereof." Paragraph 6 said, "The defendants deny the fact alleged in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of the petition." Continuing, Mr. Slade mentioned the various points which it would be for the jury to consider, viz., as to whether the extract from the Chinese newspaper in question had been correctly translated or not, the translation having been made by the court translator; whether or not the words were libellous; and next the amount of the damages.

The plaintiff gave evidence bearing out the allegations in the petition, and was cross-examined at considerable length.

The hearing had not concluded when the court rose.

25th January.

Hung Hau Ching said he was the editor of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, and occupied that position in June or July, 1891. He remembered the letter produced being inserted in the paper. He received it from the newly-appointed Italian Consul, Mr. Volpicelli, through his interpreter. It was written in Chinese and was published as received.

In reply to Mr. Slade, witness said the newspaper was published at 51, Gough Street. The printing presses, etc., were leased to Ng Sai Jung between ten and thirteen years ago. The lease was in writing. He remembered a letter coming to Ng Sai Jung from Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton. The Rev. T. Pierce wrote the reply produced and witness signed it.

By Mr. Francis—The old number of the premises was 39.

By Mr. Slade—Two of the owners of the paper lived on the premises, including Wong U Chi, who was chief editor. Witness was part owner of the paper.

By Mr. Francis—He was paid a salary by Ng Sai Jung for acting as editor.

This closed the case for the second defendant.

Mr. Robinson opened the case for the first defendant. He asked for permission to put in a copy of the paper published in 1837 to show that the paper was leased to Ng Sai Jung in that year.

His Lordship said libels could not be inserted in a paper without the owner being liable.

Mr. Robinson contended that the person who merely received rent for the newspaper was not liable for libels which appeared in it. The lessee was liable and he only. For instance, there might be a paper published in Hongkong owned by a lady in England; he would not be liable for any libels which might appear in that newspaper.

His Lordship said he differed from Mr. Robinson on this point.

Mr. Robinson said the great issue of course was libel or no libel. If his learned friend Mr.

Francis, who appeared for the second defendant, satisfied the jury that there was no libel at all then the proprietor could not be liable. If the printer or publisher had not published a libel then no responsibility could be attached to the proprietor. But there was another point which applied to the first defendant only. The first defendant was the proprietor of the paper. That was admitted. He said he was the lessee—the proprietor having possession. Nothing could be plainer than the general proposition that the proprietor of a newspaper was liable for a libel which might appear in that newspaper. A man who owned a newspaper might be on the other side of the earth when the libel appeared.

His Lordship said a person on the other side of the globe might be the owner of a carriage. His servant might run over someone, yet notwithstanding the fact that the owner might be on the other side of the globe at the time of the accident, he would still be liable. In the same way if the owner of a newspaper lived on the other side of the globe he would still be responsible for any libels published in his newspaper and would have to pay up like a man.

Mr. Robinson admitted the point as to the owner of a coach, because the man was the proprietor in possession of an article by his agents or servants. In the same way if a person owned a paper and his servant inserted a libel in it the owner would be responsible as publisher. But the true case was quite different here. The proprietors had leased their paper to Ng Sai Jung. They had parted with possession. Ng Sai Jung was not their servant or their agent. Therefore he contended that the proprietor was not liable. It was a material point whether Ng Sai Jung was the lessee or not, and whether before him the proprietor leased it to another man. Supposing that on the death of the proprietor of a paper in Hongkong his widow went to reside in England, and leased the paper to someone in Hongkong, it would be an absurdity if she, not being in possession of the paper either by her servant or agent, was held liable for libels appearing in that paper.

His Lordship—If she does not want the responsibility she should sell it, then.

Mr. Robinson continued to argue further on this point, quoting cases in support of his contention.

His Lordship suggested that the lease should be produced. What the jury and he wanted to know was, what was the contract?

Mr. Robinson submitted that the evidence as it stood was conclusive in favour of the first defendant, Ng Sai Jung having admitted that he was "sole proprietor as lessee," and Hung Hau Ching, editor and part proprietor, having deposed that the presses, etc., were leased to Ng Sai Jung, who took them over on the death of Lau Lang, this witness adding, "That lease is in writing. I have not got it with me. I cannot produce it."

The register of newspapers was produced, and Mr. Robinson read an entry made by Ng Sai Jung in 1837 to the effect that he was the "sole proprietor as lessee" of the newspaper in question.

Wong Shu Tong, the first defendant, said he had been compradore for the P. and O. Company for 35 years. He was one of the proprietors of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, having been part proprietor for over 20 years. As to his present connection with the paper, he had nothing whatever to do with its publication, it having been leased to Ng Sai Jung. The lease was in writing. Ng Sai Jung had been lessee of the paper 12 or 13 years. The agreement produced was the one entered into by him and Ng Sai Jung.

The following is a translation of the agreement:—

"The person making this contract for taking over a business is Ng Yung, who is indebted to Mr. Wong Shu Tong and all the other proprietors for willingly leasing to (him) Ng Yung the signboard of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po* office and all the business, furniture, plant, and machinery, on the expressed agreement that \$2,000 shall be paid for rent every year, including intercalary months without deduction, payable in full within the first month of every year without delay. In the event of the business being prosperous or declining, or if any charge by the authorities for the publication of obscene

language and libellous matters made through inadvertency (they) shall be attended to by Ng Yung himself, and Mr. Wong Shu Tong and all the other proprietors shall not be concerned. Fearing that word of mouth is no evidence, this writing is purposely made as proof."

Mr. Robinson, in summing up for the first defendant, said his client had parted with his entire ability to control the second defendant, and he submitted that as his client could not prevent the publication of any paragraph in this newspaper, it would be absolutely absurd to hold that he should be held responsible for any libellous paragraph which might appear in the newspaper, because a man could only be liable for his own acts, including the acts of his servants, and if his client had no right of control over the paper, he should not be held responsible for what appeared in it.

Mr. Francis, in summing up for the second defendant, said that undoubtedly his client was responsible for anything which appeared in this Chinese newspaper. Undoubtedly on the face of it the paragraph published with reference to Mr. Nervegna was a defamatory statement, and that, therefore, the plaintiff was entitled to a verdict against his client. The only question which remained for the consideration of the jury—the important question in the case—was what amount of damages was the plaintiff entitled to. The amount of damages which the jury would award to the plaintiff would be submitted, and depend upon two or three considerations, namely, the circumstances surrounding the publication of the paragraph objected to; the nature of the publication in itself as it stood, and thirdly the consequences. Mr. Francis proceeded to deal with these points.

Mr. Francis continued his address after this. He said that they now came to the question with reference to the special damages as alleged in the pleadings by the plaintiff. In the first instance the plaintiff alleged:—

"On the date of the publication of the defamatory words by the defendants, one Au Lap Sam had given to the plaintiff orders for 5,000 rifles, but in consequence of the said publication the said Au Lap Sam refused to complete the said order, whereby the plaintiff has suffered damage to the amount of \$5,000." Mr. Francis contended that there was absolutely no evidence that there was any connection between the two transactions at all except that one was subsequent in point of date to the other. As to the plaintiff's allegation that he had lost his business in Wuchow and Canton in consequence of the publication of the defamatory paragraph in question, Mr. Francis asked what evidence was there to connect this loss of business with this paragraph? There was none except Mr. Nervegna's own opinion; but was there sufficient reason shown on the very facts of the case to suggest abundant reasons for his loss of business independent of the publication of this paragraph? It was perfectly plain that to a greater or lesser extent Mr. Nervegna was not in favour with the gentry and officials in Wuchow. As to the plaintiff's allegation that in consequence of the publication of this paragraph he had lost business with the Kwong Tung Sun Tai firm, Mr. Francis contended that there was not sufficient satisfactory evidence before the jury to show that the business transactions alluded to with this firm ever existed. In conclusion Mr. Francis submitted that this case ought never to have been brought into that court. The Summary Court would have been quite good enough, and \$100 or \$150 would have been quite sufficient damages to Mr. Nervegna for anything he had suffered from the publication of this insignificant paragraph in an insignificant Chinese paper.

Mr. Slade, summing up for the plaintiff, said that with regard to the point raised by his friend Mr. Robinson, he would refer his Lordship to one or two cases. In the case *R. V. Gotch* the argument was practically the argument used by his learned friend the other day, and the opinion was clearly expressed that a newspaper proprietor who afforded another man the means of publishing a libel, even though he knew absolutely nothing about it and never authorized it in any possible way, was not only simply liable but criminally liable. Mr. Slade quoted two more cases in support of his contention.

His Lordship—Do you urge that both parties are liable to pay the same damages?

Mr. Slade—I urge that each party is liable for the whole amount.

His Lordship—Do you suggest that the amount should be the same in each case?

Mr. Slade—Legally, they are in precisely the same position. One is neither more nor less liable for damages than the other. The proprietor and the editor, the proprietor and the publisher, the proprietor and the printer and all practically on the same footing.

Leaving the points of law, Mr. Slade proceeded to address the jury on the facts of the case, and in conclusion asked the jury to award Mr. Nervevna substantial damages.

His Lordship observed that this was rather an important case, and he thought it would be more satisfactory if he deferred his summing up until the next day.

REVIEWS.

The Yellow River Comments. By JOHNS DE RYKE. Hongkong: Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. This is a series of comments, taking up forty-three octavo pages, made by Mr. John de Ryke, the well known Dutch hydrographic engineering adviser to the Japanese Government. The comments are made on the report of a survey made of the Yellow River by Mr. A. Rouffart, a Belgian engineer, who came to China originally in connection with tendering for an electrical tramway concession at Shanghai. When the recent calamitous floods took place in Shantung, causing such wretchedness and disaster, Mr. Rouffart proceeded north and made a report on the "River of Sorrows," and presumably a copy was forwarded to Mr. de Ryke for his professional opinion. That opinion is embodied in the pamphlet before us, and there is no personage in the East better qualified to discuss the matter than the author of those comments. The comments are of course technical in nature but are comprehensible by the ordinary lay mind, and afford an idea of the difficulties that would confront the engineer in dealing with this disastrous river and the enormous expense that would be entailed in an undertaking for prevention of the floods. Chinese official indolence and above all official parsimony stand in the way of such a work; a preliminary engineering survey of the river also would cost one million taels according to Mr. Rouffart's estimate. Until something however is done the disasters among the inhabitants of Shantung, in the valley of the Yellow River, may be expected periodically.

Mesny's Chinese Miscellany. GENERAL MESNY. Shanghai.

The third volume of this interesting work has been received, and consists really of a continuation of the work of the two previous volumes. The book is full of information of things Chinese, compiled by the gallant General, who probably knows more of China than most men in the Celestial Empire to-day. A good deal of the information is recorded from his own personal experience and knowledge, whilst the opinions of well known sinologists have not been ignored. To anyone desirous of becoming acquainted with affairs of the "Middle Kingdom" the third volume of this *Miscellany* forms a good introduction. The volume is much better printed than its two predecessors.

The Russian transport *Ekaterinoslov*, 4,064 tons, and 120 crew, arrived on the 18th inst. at Singapore bound for Vladivostok. She had on board about 1,000 soldiers and passengers.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has received a telegram to the effect that the *Tamba Maru*, which left London for Japan on the 9th inst. collided with a Norwegian steamer on the 10th. No longitude is mentioned, but the affair took place in the Channel. The sailing of *Tamba* will be delayed three days as to the damage done. The *Tamba Maru* is a singularly unfortunate vessel. She was engaged at the time of the great strike, and much of the work was carried out by apprentice labour in a fashion which made a large expenditure in renewals and alterations necessary on her arrival in Japan. She broke down twice on her first voyage to Japan, and there was rather serious trouble with the crew, culminating in wholesale arrests at Hongkong. The name of the vessel has latterly been brought into unpleasant prominence by the Kent case.—*Japan Mail*.

ARRIVAL OF H.E. LI HUNG CHANG AT CANTON.

Canton, 19th January.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on the 16th inst., the China Merchants steamer *Hsin Yu* steamed into the harbour of Canton with His Excellency Li Hung Chang and suite on board from the direction of the Bird's-nest fort and followed by a number of steam-launches with officials on board. As the *Hsin Yu* was steaming into the Pearl River all the guard boats along the route fired salutes. The way from the Government wharf to the Viceroy Yamen was lined by the soldiers and braves of all the regiments, and the Yee Chin pavilion was thronged with a great number of mandarins, civil and military, in gorgeous dresses, awaiting His Excellency. At 2 p.m. His Excellency, in a chair carried by eight bearers, and suite landed and were escorted into the pavilion and seated, and after the door of the large hall was thrown open and H.E. Li, in his gorgeous Imperial yellow jacket, stepped to the front of the hall and making an obeisance and kowtow towards the direction of the Imperial Palace or Throne, received the seal and credentials. All the officials, civil and military, were present, and presented their congratulations to the Viceroy, and others knelt down kowtowing, and afterwards departed.

TAKING OVER THE SEALS

The ceremony of taking over the seal of the Viceroyalty by H.E. Li Hung Chang has been duly performed at Canton. The 18th inst., at 5 a.m., was the day previously fixed for taking over the seal of Viceroy. Shortly before the hour appointed the Prefect She, and the Colonel Pau of the native army, taking with them a number of soldiers, proceeded to the yamen of the Provincial Governor, and from thence they carried the Imperial Banner, official flags, together with the tablets of titles and other paraphernalia, in a procession to the Viceroy's yamen. Just at 5 a.m., when a round of salutes was fired from the principal door, the usual ceremony of tea-drinking to the health of His Imperial Majesty Kwangsu was gone through. His Excellency and suite proceeded amidst a large multitude of spectators to the Viceroy's yamen. The 18th inst at 5 a.m. was the day fixed for his taking over the seal of the Viceroyalty.

THE RIVER PIRATES.

ATTEMPTING TO BLACKMAIL FOREIGN FIRMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 22nd January.

A short time ago a letter was sent by the brigands to the office of China Merchants at Canton demanding a squeeze of 1,000 taels. Of late similar letters bearing post office stamp and addressed in English have been sent to Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co. and Messrs. Deacon & Co., Shanghai, demanding payment of squeeze from the two foreign firms. The one addressed to Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann & Co. was written in Chinese, as published in the native newspaper *Pokman Po*, of the 22nd instant, of which the following is a translation:—

"On account of the heavy expenses the brethren of the Triad Society have to incur for the new year, we request your honourable firm to oblige us with a loan of 5,000 taels. Please pay it over to a flower boat in Yung Fa in Kookfao; some one will be there to receive it. Failing to pay the same we are afraid that it would be a matter of great inconvenience or trouble to all your employees, and we shall certainly make use of dynamite to explode your firm."

Upon which enquiry has been made at Yung Fa, but no one was deputed there to receive the money.

The Nam Hoi Magistrate has been communicated with by the Consular authorities of the respective nations so as to institute enquiry and make arrest.

The German gunboat *Ilis* was telegraphed for, and is now anchored off Shanghai for any emergency.

The Bureau for foreign affairs, lately instituted by the late Viceroy Fan Chuang Lin, and situated in the old city, is ordered by the present Viceroy Li Hung Chang to be removed into the Viceroy's yamen for the convenience of transacting business.

A STEAMER LOST.

MANDARIN CRUISER BOARDED AND ROBBED.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 24th January.

The screw steamer *Yao Kum*, owned by a man named Kwan-lo-sam, of Canton, running between Canton and Suncho, in the district of Punyu, and having on board a number of passengers and little cargo, was attacked and taken away by pirates. On the 21st instant, at noon, she started on her usual trip from Canton. On reaching Samcheong village some of the passengers on board hailed small boats and wanted to go ashore, when a number of pirates well dressed, carrying with them luggage and pillow-boxes, who had stowed themselves amongst the passengers, made a certain signal, and taking out revolvers and swords from their pillow-boxes and with shouting, intimidated the passengers and crew who were very much alarmed, and fled to one part of the ship. The pirates then ransacked all the luggage and ordered the captain to proceed on the voyage.

About a mile or so a mandarin cruiser was sighted, and the pirates hailed and boarded her, and took away all her arms and ammunition. The braves on board the cruiser stood by with folded arms looking at each other, and could not do anything.

THEIR POLITENESS.

The pirates then again proceeded on their way to Min Fa Shan (i.e. cotton hill), where they forced the passengers to go ashore, saying to them, "Brothers, please go ashore; we take your money and goods for the time being as a loan to us because we want money for the new year." They then ordered the crew to take the steamer to no one knows where. It is supposed that she must have gone to Chutao-shan, the nest of the pirates. The owner of the steamer has petitioned the mandarin, and steam launches have been sent out to search for the missing steamer.

A JUNK PIRATED.

On the 16th instant, at Fatshan, in the village of Shekwan, opposite a joss-house, a junk loaded with firewood was lying at anchor. The master of the junk went on shore on business, so did some of the crew. There were left three men on board to take charge of the cargo. About fifteen to twenty pirates, armed with revolvers and swords, went on board and overpowered them, and drove them into the hold, one pirate guarding them. The rest of the pirates took the boat to Yungchow, opposite the river, where they sold the firewood to the villagers at one dollar for four piculs. Crowds of ignorant and simple-minded villagers were attracted to the spot, and were contesting with each other in buying cheap bargains until the whole load of the firewood was sold. When the junk master returned he found his boat missing, and was informed that she was in the opposite river. He immediately engaged a small boat to take him there. There he saw his own junk lying at anchor and a crowd of villagers on board buying firewood, but none of the crew; so he quietly ordered his small boat to take him to the nearest guard-boat and reported the robbery, and then went on shore to give information to the Commandant of the guard-house. The braves of the guard-house, together with the soldiers of the guard boat, went to make the arrest. On their arrival the villagers got frightened and ran away; but the pirates stood their ground and shots were fired. Alarm gongs sounded and the soldiers on shore attacked from behind and some of the pirates jumped into the river, one being killed and others arrested. The matter was reported to the elders and gentry of the village, who ordered the villagers to pay the junk master money for the firewood, and the matter dropped.

A BUREAU OF COMMERCE.

A Bureau of Commerce has been instituted at Canton by an Imperial decree of the Chinese Government for the protection of merchants who go to foreign countries for the purpose of trade, the same as that of Swatow, and the expense for its keep is to be paid from the lease of the Taikun theatre at Honam. Soyin Sui, one of the gentry, is appointed president of the institution.

ANOTHER PIRACY ON THE WEST RIVER.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Samsui, 18th January.

The steam launch *Hunglee*, with passenger boat in tow, was pirated on the 15th instant at Kongmoon. The pirates, 43 in number, took launch to Chau-hoi (a large island in the river opposite Kongmoon) and then decamped with ten thousand taels. H.M.S. *Sandpiper* fell in with the *Hunglee* just after the pirates had left.

Chau-hoi, mentioned above, is notorious as a pirate haunt, and recently a Chinese force who had captured some pirates on the island were obliged to abandon their prisoners, and were driven off the island by the villagers.

Is this piracy or rebellion?

THE RECENT FIRE AT THE CHOP YIK GODOWN.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd inst., before Mr Gompertz, Chan Sze and Yu Shan Tin, the former being the keeper and the latter the manager of the Chop Yik Godown at West Point, were charged on remand with storing explosives in the Godown in question.

Captain Superintendent May conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution. Mr. Ewens appeared for Yu Shan Tin and Mr. Sharp for Chan Sze. Mr. Ewens asked for the cases to be dealt with separately, and accordingly the charge against his client was gone into first. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

U Fuk, building contractor, said he knew the Kwan Wo Tung, he being a partner in that firm. He knew the Chop Yik Godown, which was recently burned down. He had a share in the Godown, which was managed by the defendant Yu Shan Tin. The rents for the goods in the godown were collected by the accountant, who paid them to Yu Shan Tin. The latter divided them amongst the partners in the godown.

In reply to Mr. Ewens, witness said the defendant did not reside on the godown premises. The accountant resided there. He did not know whether the defendant would have any knowledge of the goods stored in the godown. He had a share in the godown but knew nothing about the goods stored there. He knew nothing about any rules in connection with the godown.

Inspector Baker said that after the fire at the Chop Yik Godown he went to the Kwan Mo Fung firm and asked for the manager. The defendant was sent for and stated that he was the manager of the Chop Yik Godown. When asked his name the defendant said it was Yu Fuk. After the fire he got the books pertaining by the godown from the possession of the godown-keeper, who was the accountant Chan Sze.

P. C. Mackay said that after the fire at the Chop Yik Godown he made a search and found the box of ammunition produced in No. 2 Godown. There was about two feet of rubbish on the top. He continued his search the next day and found some exploded cartridges in the same godown. The cartridges produced were part of them. He also found exploded cartridges in No. 3 godown on the 28th December. On the 21st instant he found the lead and cartridges produced in No. 7 Godown, and he found some more exploded cartridges in the same Godown on Monday. He had been in the army, and the box produced was a proper ammunition box.

P. C. Brown deposed to finding the pieces of lead produced among the ruins of the Chop Yik Godown. They consisted of lead and cartridge melted together.

A Sergeant Interpreter said he was on duty when the defendant was charged. In reply the defendant said, "I do not know the nature of the goods stored in the godown."

His Worship recalled U Fuk, who now said the defendant was not the manager of the godown but of the Kwan Mo Lung. He had never said the defendant was the manager of the godown. The accountant, Chan Sze, was the

manager of the godown. The defendant took charge of the money in connection with the godown and engaged the accountant, from whom he received the money. He did not know with whom people made arrangements when they wished to store goods in the godown. Chan Sze had been connected with the godown seven or eight years.

Mr. Ewens, in addressing the Court for the defence, submitted that there was no case against the defendant. Because this man happened to take rents he could not be said to keep explosives. The evidence of the prosecution was to the effect that the defendant did not know the notice of the goods stored in the godown.

Chan Sze, accountant at the Chop Yik Godown, said he entered into the books all the goods received for storing into the godown. He was not aware that any cartridges were stored in the godown. He produced a copy of the rules for the regulation of the godown. Rule 9 said that goods which would injure other goods in the godown were prohibited. Had anyone brought him ammunition to store he would have refused it. Yu Shan Tin did not know the nature of the goods stored in the godown. Tam Hoi, the godown keeper, did. He asked the customers and the godown keeper what goods he should enter into his books. Had ammunition been brought he would have refused to take it in. The books produced contained correct entries, so far as he knew, of the goods stored in the godown.

Replying to the Captain Superintendent, witness admitted that it was his duty to see that the rules of the godown were observed and that the prohibited articles mentioned in Rule 9 were not stored.

Tam Hoi said he was the keeper of the Chop Yik Godown, and if anyone wanted to store cargo in the godown he asked him, telling him what cargo he wanted to store. If a man had told him he was bringing gunpowder he would not have taken it in. He had never seen boxes like the cartridge box produced brought in.

In reply to the Captain Superintendent, witness said that when the goods were placed in the godown he went with the customer to see the accountant. He could not store goods without the accountant's authority, nor could any goods be taken out without the accountant's authority. The accountant was the head man at the godown. Witness only looked after the coolies.

His Worship said he would consider his decision, and would hear the other case.

Mok Yi, a coolie employed by Mr. Cooper, of Pottinger Street, said he had taken goods to the Chop Yik godown and stored them there on behalf of his employer. He knew the defendant, who was the accountant at the godown. When he went to store goods he used to ask the godown keeper if he had any room and the godown keeper would refer him to the defendant, and the defendant would ask him what the goods were. When he wished to take away the goods he had to see the defendant and pay for the storage. The defendant would then give him an order for the godown keeper. He had never stored goods or taken goods out without the defendant's authority.

Replying to Mr. Sharp, witness said it was the godown keeper, and not the defendant, who actually saw the goods as they came in.

The evidence given in the previous case was read over.

The Sergeant Interpreter said that when charged the defendant replied, "I have only been in charge of these godowns this year. When I took charge there were some goods there; I do not know the nature of these goods."

Mr. Sharp, for the defence, contended that it was clear that the person contemplated by the Legislature was the owner of the explosive or the person who was seeking to store the explosive. He argued that the box containing the cartridges were sent in disguised, and therefore his client was not responsible. If this charge were upheld the result would be that every employee connected with the godown would be liable.

The Captain Superintendent pointed out that there was no evidence at all that the ammunition box produced had any outside covering.

His Worship so reserved his decision in this case also until next Tuesday.

PIRACY NEAR MIRS BAY.

A TOUGH STRUGGLE.

The Hongkong Police are busily engaged investigating reports made to them by a couple of junk owners as to piratical attacks made upon them a couple of days ago.

In the one case the junk owner said that while in the neighbourhood of the Nine Pins a Chin Chu boat containing six men came alongside his junk and asked to buy some fish, but that as he did not like their looks he refused to have anything to do with them and sailed away. The men in the boat fired after them and hit two of the crew. These have since been sent to the hospital.

Subsequently another junk owner made his appearance at the Police Station and told a somewhat different story. He said that he was in company with the other junk off Ngo Hung, on the eastern coast of MIRS Bay. He said that a desperate struggle took place between the other junk and the pirates and that three of the latter were thrown overboard, one of them being drowned. Subsequently they attacked his boat, and were not content with stealing money and jewellery from him but beat his son, who was knocked overboard and drowned.

ARRIVAL OF PRINCE WALDEMAR OF DENMARK.

The Danish cruiser *Valkyrien* arrived on the morning of the 23rd inst., and anchored near the *Centurion*, exchanging salutes. The Danish man-of-war flag is rarely seen in eastern waters, but more interest was attached to the arrival of the *Valkyrien* on account of Prince Waldemar of Denmark being on board, who is on a cruise to Far Eastern ports. The Prince has arrived from Saigon where many festivities have been held in his honour, including races, balls, dinners, reviews, torchlight and Chinese processions in fact every form of entertainment that could be devised by our hospitable French neighbours.

No special arrangements have been made to entertain the Prince in Hongkong, as he will only be here eight days and will remain on board the ship he commands.

His Royal Highness called upon the Governor during the afternoon, and later on Viscount Suirdale. His Excellency's A.D.C., returned the visit, His Excellency having been advised to remain in doors by his medical attendant on account of his indisposition.

The *Valkyrien*, is a cruiser of 2,900 tons, 5,800 horse power, built at Copenhagen in 1887, with armoured deck, carries 28.2 in. (Krupp) 6 5.9 in., 4 q.f., 10 machine guns, with 5 torpedo tubes. Speed 17 knots.

THE FORTHCOMING RACES.

SALE OF BOOTH SITES—GREAT DECREASE IN THE PRICES.

Yesterday Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for sale by auction the lots numbered 1 to 19 for the erection of booths and mat-sheds on the Government ground adjoining the Racecourse, north of the grand stand enclosure.

There was a good attendance, but the prices were considerably below those of previous years. Heretofore quite a number of the lots have been taken up by Chinese professional gamblers and the booths erected thereon have been used solely for the playing of fantan and other Chinese games of chance. This year booths used solely for this purpose will not be allowed; hence the reduction in the takings. The whole of the lots only fetched \$945, against \$10,890 last year and \$4,985 in 1898.

H.I.G.M. cruiser *Irene* arrived at Foochow on the 8th instant.

No case of plague has been reported in Kobe for a considerable time, says the *Kobe Herald* of the 12th inst., but dead rats are still being discovered at several quarters. Those found at the Minatogawa Common school and the Ken gaol a short while ago were discovered to be infected by plague, and the former was closed for five days while the latter was thoroughly disinfected.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at noon on the 23rd inst. There were present:—Messrs. R. G. Shewan (Chairman), J. H. Lewis, J. S. van Buren, Chow Tung Shan (Directors), C. Ewins (Solicitor), E. S. Kelly Brownhill, C. Klink, F. M. Gutierrez, A. Denison, Chow Hing Kee, Lee Wing, Fung Wa Cheun, and See Wun.

The SECRETARY, having read the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN proposed:—

"That the Capital of the Company be increased to \$2,000,000 by the creation and issue of 50,000 New Shares of \$2 each."

Mr. Kelley seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed:—

"That the commission of the General Managers be reduced to 5 per cent., and that the figure '8' in the sixth paragraph of Article XI of the Articles of Association of the Company be struck out and the figure '5' substituted therefor."

Mr. Ewins seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the shareholders for their attendance, and the meeting terminated.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary meeting of shareholders of the above company was held in the offices, Victoria Buildings, Queen's Road, Hongkong, at noon, on the 24th inst. the Hon. J. J. Keewick presiding. There were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. J. Raymond, A. Haupt, D. M. Moses, Lee Sing (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary) G. C. Anderson, T. Arnold, G. M. Bain, J. H. Cox, A. Denison, F. E. C. Georg, T. M. de Graa, Dr. Hartigan, D. Haskell, T. Henderson, F. H. Honke, Douglas Jones, P. Jordan, S. A. Joseph, A. Mackenzie, A. McConachie, F. W. Melchers, M. H. Michael, S. H. Michael, H. N. Mody, A. G. Morris, E. J. Moses, C. Palmer, J. C. Peter, G. F. W. Playfair, H. A. Ritchie, H. A. W. Slade, Gershom Stewart, G. T. Vaitch, C. H. Thompson, B. C. Wilcox, Ho Fook, Ho Komong, Ho Tung, Lau Kwong Seak, Lo Cheung Shui (shareholders).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the Report and Accounts which have been in your hands for sometime I will with your permission take as read. In presenting them to you your Directors feel sure that you will consider the past year's working has been very satisfactory. The net profits therein having reached the sum of \$51,090.01 as against \$270,598.67 for the previous year. Dealing first with what we consider are regular or normal sources of revenue. The Rent account shows an increase of \$28,784.38 which, considering the large amount of property we have disposed of, is satisfactory. The Interest account likewise is increased by the sum of \$7,283.82, whilst our Commission account shows a slight decrease of \$443.81, caused by our constituents taking advantage of the rise of property to dispose of their holdings previously under our management. I would now particularly direct your attention to that item in the accounts which has so considerably swelled our profits as to enable us to present to you such a satisfactory result on the year's working, namely, Profits on Sales of Property, which amount to the handsome sum of \$276,711.72 against \$64,957.18 in 1898. I think it needless to point out to you that this item must be regarded as one which it would be hopeless to expect to recur annually in the future, and therefore must be considered as an abnormal item of revenue, and it is for that reason that your Directors have proposed that the major portion of it should be placed to a Fund, which, with every hope and belief that our regular sources of revenue can in no way diminish, will enable you to receive for some years to come a dividend equalling that which you are now asked to sanction, namely 12 per cent on the paid-up capital and thereby provide

against any material fluctuation which may occur in the value of property in this Colony. Your directors look with confidence to the progressive values of property in Hongkong, but in certain areas there must be fluctuations arising from various causes, and we have had an illustration of this recently consequent upon legislation affecting particular districts. Your Directors hope that you will approve the appropriation of these abnormal profits to an equalization of Dividend Fund in the manner proposed, and which seems likely to meet with the concurrence of shareholders at a distance. Before formally proposing that the Report and Accounts should be adopted, I will be glad to reply to any enquiries regarding them which any shareholder may wish to address me.

Mr. McCONACHIE said: I am sure we have all listened to the interesting speech delivered by our Chairman with much satisfaction, and the figures which the directors have placed before us show in a most gratifying way that their labours during the past year have met with much success. It is very satisfactory to the shareholders to see the Company at last in a position to commence a reserve fund out of our earnings, and to have the position of the Company strengthened by the placing to a reserve fund for equalization of dividends the handsome sum of \$250,000, which is equal to \$5 per share. We all most earnestly hope that future years may be similarly prosperous, and that this is only the first of many subsequent annual additions to this most useful fund. While on the matter of the accounts of this Company I would like to draw the attention of the Board to the eminent advisability of their now taking the opportunity of reducing, and if possible doing away with entirely, the liability of shareholders for further calls upon their shares by adopting one or other of the following courses:—Either First—By capitalizing the old reserve and giving us fully paid up scrip for \$75 per share; or Second—By capitalizing the reserve fund and calling up gradually the \$25 outstanding on each share and completing the capital of the Company to its authorized amount of \$5,000,000. It will be remembered by all those who are interested in the Company that the old reserve fund was not saved out of earnings, but was really a payment as premium on new shares shortly after the formation of the Company, and that this sum may quite fairly be written in as capital. The shares were issued at a premium of 50 per cent. which the earnings of the Company during the last 11 years of its existence hardly seem to have justified. I have looked into the matter of dividends distributed and find that they amount to:—1889, 7 per cent; 1890, 9½ per cent; 1891, 8½ per cent; 1892, 8 per cent; 1893, 8 per cent; 1894, 8 per cent; 1895, 8 per cent; 1896, 8 per cent; 1897, 8 per cent; 1898, 10 per cent; 1899 12 per cent. On the paid-up capital \$2,500,000 this gives an average of 8½ per cent., but on the actual capital received from shareholders, viz., \$3,750,000 it only amounts to 5½ per cent. We hope, however, that the bad times we have gone through are things of the past and that the present sound and satisfactory position of the Company will be of an enduring nature. I hold in common with a number of shareholders the opinion that by eliminating the possibility of any further calls on the shares that the Directors will be following a course at once advantageous to all shareholders individually and that they will also at the same time confer a boon on the whole investing public of the Colony. It is most desirable that there should be some means of investing money in fully paid up securities without the risk which must necessarily be attendant on all industrial undertakings where running expenses are great, and must be fully maintained whether times be good or bad. We think that this Company has a great opportunity of supplying such a want. Our business is sound and rents must always be coming in, making a return of some sort a certainty. It would attract trust funds and permanent investors and would be a means of retaining capital in the Colony which of necessity for want of such an investment is withdrawn and placed at home or elsewhere. It may be an easy matter to finance when one is on the spot, but quite a different matter when one is at a distance. Many investors on leav-

ing the East for good are on that account prevented from investing in the shares of this Company by reason of the possibility of their being called upon for further capital, and perhaps at a time when it is not easy for them to make the necessary arrangements. It is the very reverse of my wish to approach the Directors in a hostile spirit. On the contrary, what I have said has been said with the most friendly feelings, but with a view to having a full and free discussion on the matters touched upon. I think it well to propose the following as a resolution:—That before the next General meeting of the Company the sum of \$1,250,000, now standing at the credit of Reserve Fund Account, be transferred to Capital Account, and that new scrip be issued at \$75 per share fully paid up in exchange for the present scrip of \$10 with \$50 only paid up, and that the Articles of Association of the Company be altered so as to make the Capital of the Company \$3,750,000 fully paid up. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure all of us have listened with very great interest to Mr. McConachie, but I need hardly point out to him and the other shareholders present who may be in favour of his proposition, that of course this meeting is not competent to deal with any special resolution, but Mr. McConachie's resolution would require to be submitted to a special meeting. I may say at once with reference to these two resolutions that if Mr. McConachie and the gentlemen who support the views which he has expressed, will draft a letter to the Directors, putting before them their views in concrete form, it will receive the most careful and faithful attention. I may say at the outset, that, speaking for myself, and possibly my colleagues, I do not view very favourably a reduction of the capital. I only mention this, and I would suggest that a letter be sent to the Directors which will receive consideration.

Mr. McCONACHIE: It would save a great deal of labour if the Directors would take the sense of the meeting, and take that as being sufficient without getting up any discussion. The Directors might put it in an informal manner if necessary, for if it is not competent to put the resolution formerly I must obey your ruling in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN: It would be more regular if you would bring forward your proposal after the passing of the report and accounts. You take no exception to the accounts or the report?

Mr. McCONACHIE: None whatever.

The CHAIRMAN: Then after they are passed if you will ask me to take the sense of the meeting I will do so with pleasure. It will be purely informal.

Mr. McCONACHIE: Quite so.

The CHAIRMAN: If no gentleman has any question to ask, I beg to propose:—

"That the Report and Accounts as presented be adopted and passed."

Mr. DOUGLAS JONES: I have much pleasure in seconding the admirable report which we have before us, showing as it does a steady increase in what I may call the substantive business of the company. The large profits made through the sales of the property are extraneous profits, and as the Chairman has already warned us, must not be counted upon as recurring annually. That being so I think it is very wise to deal with these profits as the Directors propose, thereby strengthening the company and providing for a steady dividend and possibly an increasing one in the future. I was going to add—not being sure that Mr. McConachie was going to speak on the subject,—that there had been some talk about capitalizing the Reserve Fund, and that I felt sure the Directors as guardians of the shareholders would be prepared to receive any proposition which could be proved or shown to be to the interest of the shareholders and to the general benefit of the company (Hear, hear). I heartily congratulate the Managing Director, the Directors, the Secretary and the staff of the Company for the fine statement they have laid before us, and I now beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the proposal of Mr. Stewart seconded by Mr. J. H. Cox, Messrs. N. A. Siebs and Lee Sing were re-elected directors.

Mr. C. PALMER proposed, Mr. PATER seconded, and the appointment of Mr. E. Shellington

Director in place of Mr. D. Gubbay, resigned; was confirmed.

The appointment of Mr. D. M. Moses as a director in place of Mr. E. Shellim, who has resigned, was confirmed on the proposition of Mr. R. C. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Denison.

Mr. ARNOLD proposed, Mr. JOSEPH seconded, and it was agreed, that Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. J. C. Peter be re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN: Before proceeding to consider this special resolution which Mr. McConachie has mentioned, I may announce that dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. Perhaps Mr. McConachie will now move his resolution, which we understand is purely informal, because this meeting is not competent to deal with it.

Mr. J. H. Cox: Probably the Articles of Association state the manner in which a proposition to the Directors shall be made. It should be in writing I think and signed by a certain number of shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand it to be purely informal, and is to take the opinion of the meeting.

Mr. ARNOLD: Can you give us the benefit of the views of the Board?

The CHAIRMAN: The Board is really not yet fully informed what the views of the gentlemen are on the subject which Mr. McConachie has referred to. If he likes to put it before us in writing we will fully consider it. For that reason I am not prepared to say off-hand in regard to it what the opinion of the Board is.

Mr. McCONACHIE: I hope there is no want of sympathy.

The CHAIRMAN: I am prepared to add on behalf of the Board that they are prepared to listen with a sympathetic ear.

Mr. McCONACHIE: I beg then to propose:—

"That before the next general meeting of the Company the sum of \$1,250,000 now standing at the credit of reserve fund account be transferred to capital account, and that new scrip be issued at \$75 per share fully paid-up in exchange for the present scrip of \$100 with \$50 only paid-up, and that the Articles of Association of the Company be altered so as to make the capital of the Company \$3,750,000 fully paid up."

or as an alternative

"That the reserve fund be capitalized and the \$25 outstanding on each share gradually called up, thus completing the capital of the Company at its authorised amount of \$5,000,000."

Mr. McCONACHIE: As this is purely informal matter, may I ask those in favour of the first resolution to hold up their hands.

A number of hands was shown.

Mr. ARNOLD: Before we vote, I, with others no doubt, would like time to consider so important a matter.

Mr. DOUGLAS JONES: I should think it would be wiser instead of taking an informal vote to give us time, as Mr. Arnold suggests, to digest this thing, and consider it, for really to most of us it is quite new. It would be better to consider it, and in the ordinary way call a meeting, and no doubt before that the opinion of the Board would be ascertained. I take it that if the Board have any great objection to it, probably the shareholders would not press the matter. Therefore, before even putting it in an informal way, I think it would be better to think about it.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER: I need hardly say I concur with the views expressed by Mr. Arnold. Some of you might have made up your minds either for the first or second resolution. On the contrary a good many also in this room have heard this resolution for the first time, and as Mr. Arnold says, are not prepared to give their opinion, and must have time to consider the matter. Therefore, under the circumstances, it is best that actual voting might not take place at the present moment. The Directors have heard what you have had to say, and later on you must put it before us in an official form, when we will give it the attention it deserves, and then call a meeting to place the matter before you.

Mr. McCONACHIE: I am perfectly satisfied if the directors will call a meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case you will doubtless address a letter to the Directors on the subject calling a meeting for a specific purpose.

Mr. Ho Tung proposed a vote of thanks to the managing director, secretary and staff, which was carried, and the meeting terminated.

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.

The eleventh ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on the 24th inst. at 11.30 a.m. The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., took the chair, and there were present:—The Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. A. G. Wood, A. J. Raymond (directors), A. H. Shelton Hooper (secretary), A. McConachie, W. H. Purcell, E. S. Joseph, P. Jordan, H. N. Mody, A. G. Morris, H. A. W. Slade, W. J. Gressen, and J. C. dos Remedios, (shareholders).

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen, we will with your permission take the Report and Accounts as read. Since our last general meeting the balance of our capital has been called up and paid during the month of March in the last year, which placed at our disposal the sum of \$125,000, and enabled us to pay off the mortgage of \$110,000 and thereby relieved the company for the payment of interest for the past 10 months. The net profits for the year amount to \$23,421.29 as against \$6,523.88 in 1898. This increase is brought about principally by the reduction in interest paid and an increase in the gross rental of about \$1,800. Our rent roll 12 months ago, showed a monthly return of \$2,400, and about \$300 estimated for vacant tenements. To-day I am pleased to inform you we have no vacancies and our rent roll is \$3,900. A result which I have no doubt will be deemed satisfactory. The whole of the property is in good condition.

Mr. A. G. MORRIS said that he had been a shareholder since the formation of the Company, and had since carefully followed its development, making frequent excursions to view the Company's property. He was most pleased with the slow but sure progress that had been made and at the very satisfactory increase shown in the rent roll. From his own observation he was confident that the Chinese population was vastly increasing and he should not be surprised to see next year a similar jump in the rent roll. The present increase meant one of nearly three per cent., and those old shareholders who had stuck to the Company were now reaping the benefit of having done so. He anticipated higher rentals next year, and had much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. McCONACHIE proposed and Mr. Purcell seconded, the confirmation of the election of the Hon. J. J. Keswick and Mr. A. G. Wood in the place of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. C. S. Sharp. Carried unanimously.

Mr. PAUL JORDAN proposed and Mr. Slade seconded, the re-election of the Hon. J. J. Keswick and the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., as directors.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. Mody proposed and Mr. Joseph seconded, the re-election of Mr. Fullerton Henderson as Auditor.—Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all the business, gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

The Hongkong Boat Club had a scratch race on the 18th instant, when three boats competed. After a good tussle No. 1 boat (Young, stroke) won by a length.

A somewhat exciting incident took place on the Heron ferry launch on Thursday afternoon. Among the passengers was Private Reynolds, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was somewhat under the influence of drink, and accordingly when the Portuguese collector came to him for his fare he became awkward and said he would not pay anything. The collector pressed him, and getting exasperated the soldier threw him overboard. Fortunately the collector could swim, and managed to keep afloat until the launch turned round and picked him up. The soldier was brought up at the Magistracy yesterday and fined \$15 and ordered to pay \$10 compensation—a most inadequate punishment, seeing that if the collector had not been able to swim he would in all probability have been drowned.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

ADDRESS BY THE HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.

The annual distribution of prizes took place at Queen's College on the 23rd inst. at noon. In the absence of His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C., G.), the chair was occupied by the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), who was supported by Dr. Bateson Wright (Head Master), the Bishop of Victoria (Dr. Moore), the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Consul-General Wildman (United States), Consul Volpicelli (Italian), Consul Romano (Portuguese), Consul Kutachera (Austria Hungary), and Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General's Department).

Dr. BATESON WRIGHT read the annual report which stated:—

The total number on roll was 1,344, the same figure as in 1898. The attendance, however, shows a very marked improvement, 204,021 for 230, instead of 176,867 for 235 days; after reducing the attendance of 1896 *pro rata* to the same number of days, 230, we find an increase in 1899 of 30,917 attendances. The highest monthly attendances 1,072, 1,070, and 1,555, actually exceed the total annual rolls of the years 1892-1896. The largest number of boys present on one day was 1,031; more than were present in 1895 throughout the whole year.

The revenue from fees was \$27,245, which is more than double the collection in 1897, and an increase of \$5,652 on the amount in 1898. The total expenditure in Cash Book and Crown Agents Accounts was \$1,460 less than the sum provided in the Estimates. The increase of the Gross Expenditure by \$3,600 is due chiefly to the item Adjustment of Exchange in England, but partly to the increase in Expenditure referred to in par. 7 of my last report.

From absence and resignation the staff has been shorthanded this year, and frequent changes have ensued. Four out of ten English masters have been absent throughout the year. The Second Master, Mr. A. J. May, went on leave in March. Mr. Machell was on leave the whole twelve months. The services of Mr. Jones were retained at the Supreme Court. The tenth master provided on the estimates has only just entered on his duties. In June, Mr. James resigned on obtaining the appointment of Second Master at King's College, Bangkok. His example was followed in August by Mr. U Hang Kam, Native Mathematical Master, who left the colony for Manila. In November Mr. Wong Kwok-ii was temporarily transferred to the Supreme Court on probation. A serious loss to the college was caused at the end of December by the resignation of the Second Chinese Assistant, Mr. Luk King-fo, who is entering upon a mercantile career. In January, 1892, when I held my first Annual Examination, Mr. Luk was *proxime accessit* to the Morrison Scholar, and in the following year was appointed to his late post. In his relations with masters and boys, he merited and enjoyed their highest respect and esteem. His classes invariably passed with great credit. No man has been more successful as a master in teaching English to Chinese boys; nor has any Chinese Assistant excelled him in his strenuous and persistent efforts to master fully the difficulties of the English language.

Mr. A. W. Grant, B.A., of Pembroke College, Cambridge, appointed to the additional mastership mentioned in my last report, arrived at the end of August. The appointment of Mr. B. Tanner to the vacancy caused by Mr. James' resignation was approved by the Secretary of State, but has only just come into effect, on the expiration of the notice required by the terms of his late engagement. We were fortunate in April in securing the services of Mr. James Cheong, graduate of Melbourne University, as a substitute for Mr. Jones. Mr. Ng In, third Chinese Assistant, has been promoted to the post vacated by Mr. Luk. A scheme for articling three additional pupil teachers, and for improving the salaries of the junior Chinese assistants, is under consideration.

The results of the Oxford Local Examinations are as follows:—Of seven senior candidates, six of whom were Chinese, four or 57 per cent. passed; of the Junior, all non-Chinese,

only one out of seven, or 14 per cent, passed. We sent in no preliminary candidate, C. B. Hayward, who in 1898 headed our Junior List and was distinguished in English, occupied the same position, and obtained the same distinction as a senior last July.

I am happy to report that four free scholars from the Government District Schools were elected last March, and have worked most satisfactorily in the fourth class to which they were admitted.

The following is my report on the Lower and Preparatory Schools, the examination of which has been entrusted to the Head Master, by a standing order of the Governing Body:—

Lower School	385	exd.	313	or	81 %	passed
Preparatory School	221	"	216	"	98	"
Total	606	"	529	"	87	"

Compared with last year, 56 more boys were examined, and 72 more boys passed. The work in the lower school shows considerable improvement, though the standard in arithmetic and grammar is still too low. The Preparatory School maintains its usual high average. The percentage table below provides sufficient details:

119 boys from this college obtained various situations in the colony and elsewhere. Of these, 21 were employed by Her Majesty's Government and 35 by local professional and mercantile firms.

I desire once again to express our warmest thanks to donors of prizes, without whose generosity only half of our deserving boys would have their exertions recognised. In this long list, Sir Thomas Jackson, Mr. Romano, Mr. Mody and Mr. Whiley, The Tung Wa Hospital Committee; and amongst old scholars Messrs Ho Tung, Ho Fuk, Fung Wachun, Sin Tak-fan, Leung Yun-pò, T'an Tsz-kong, Tsai Tsu-bee, and Ng Kwok-ching are representative names.

The prizes having been distributed, Dr. Wright invited the Chairman to deliver his address.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said—Dr. Wright, my Lord Bishop, ladies and gentlemen, I feel certain you will all regret that His Excellency the Governor, who was to have presided to day, is unable to be present on account of indisposition. I am glad, however, to be able to say that His Excellency is not seriously ill, but his medical adviser has urged upon him the advisability of not going out for a day or two. I am sure that you all, like myself, will be particularly sorry for His Excellency's absence, not only on account of the reason of it, but because we shall have missed by that absence words that would have been well worthy of our attention. I must confess that I, myself, feel I am a sorry substitute, and as I have had such short notice—only learned yesterday afternoon that I was to have the honour of presiding here to-day—I have not been able by preparation to make up for my own natural shortcomings. In one sense, however, as Dr. Wright has kindly said, it is perhaps not altogether inappropriate that I should preside on this occasion. I do not think there is anybody in this room who has had a longer personal acquaintance with this College than myself—an acquaintance now extending over more than twenty years, and I venture to say that there is certainly no person in this room who takes keener and warmer interest in the welfare of this institution than I do. (Applause.) A former worthy headmaster of this school, Dr. Stewart, whose memory is still green, was an intimate personal friend of mine, and with your present worthy headmaster, Dr. Wright, I have enjoyed an intimate acquaintance from the first day I arrived in the colony. I also happen to be Chairman of the governing body of this College. On these grounds, therefore, if I had anything at all worthy to say, I might be justified in saying it. But the fact of the matter is, ladies and gentlemen, that under the able guidance of Dr. Wright, supported by the other masters of this institution, the education in this school is conducted in such an admirable manner that the governing body has an easy time of it, and there is little left for me to say. You have heard Dr. Wright's report, and I have also had the advantage of reading a joint report which has been drawn up by Dr. Wright

and Viscount Suidale as to the examination conducted by them of the upper classes of this school. Both these reports are very instructive reading, and show that the College continues to progress. That progress is shown in many respects, but perhaps it is shown more clearly by a few figures which I will take from Dr. Wright's report, which he has just read. From that report it appears that the total number on the roll was 1,314, and that the attendance shows a marked improvement. In 1869 the average annual cost to each boy was \$7.07 and the total number of boys 320. In 1899, the average annual cost to each boy was \$30.72, and the total number of boys 1,344, and as Dr. Wright points out, since his arrival in 1882, the respective costs to boys and Government have been progressing steadily in inverse ratio—a fact which is particularly gratifying to me as the officer who is responsible for the drafting of the Estimates of this Colony, and who sometimes finds it not too easy to show the desired surplus on the right side. (Applause.) The report of Dr. Wright and Viscount Suidale on the Upper School shows that high intelligence was displayed by Chinese and non-Chinese in oral and written examination work, and I am especially gratified to find that the examiners were able to report so favourably on the knowledge of English possessed by the boys and the excellence of the English pronunciation in the College. I feel certain you will all agree with me that Dr. Wright and the staff of masters are to be congratulated on the excellent results they have obtained, as shown in this independent report on the Upper School. Of course, there must be weak points, but it is unnecessary to emphasize them. In an institution it may be taken for granted that attention having been once called to such weaknesses every endeavour will be taken to remedy the causes of them. As we all know from our own experience as boys, the originality of boys is not infrequently shown in the answers they give to questions. I understand no small amount of originality was shown during the recent examination. I will give one instance. The question set was:—“Correct the following where necessary and write out the corrected form, “You didn't ought to have got so excited as them.” The amended version given was as follows:—“You ought to have got as excited as they didn't.” (Laughter.) I doubt whether the boy who gave that answer received the marks which I think he deserved for this piece of originality. (Laughter.) That the education given by this College is appreciated by the public is shown by the figures stated by Dr. Wright that no fewer than 119 boys obtained, in 1899, various situations in the colony and elsewhere. Out of that number, twenty-one have found employment in the service of the Hongkong Government, and I can speak from personal experience of some of these. I do not know what the Government would have done if it had not had the College to turn to when it wanted a staff of Chinese for the new territory. I have seen that staff at work in the new territory, and I cannot give them any higher praise than to say that they are carrying out their duties in a manner worthy of the College in which they received their education. (Applause.) I do not know whether it has been the custom in this College to keep a list of the pupils who pass through it and a record of their careers. Such a list would be highly instructive as showing how widespread has been the educational influence of this institution, and to what high positions of responsibility and trust many of its pupils have attained. Such a list would justify the headmaster in exclaiming, in the words of the Latin poet, somewhat modified—*Quae regio in Oriente nostri non plena laboris*. And now, boys, I must address a few words to you. The results of your examinations show that most of you have worked hard, and in so doing so you have shown your wisdom at an early age. The Chinese proverb says:—“If you do not work when you are young, what will you do in old age?” You also seemed to have realised at a very early age the wisdom of the Chinese proverb—“Learning is more precious than gold.” But while you have worked hard, I hope you have not neglected to play hard. (Applause.) If you have, it is at any rate not the fault of your master, Mr. Woodcock, who, as Dr. Wright has pointed out in his report, has been so successful and energetic in organis-

ing cricket matches. Touching on the question of athletics, I see no reason why athletics should not be more cultivated in this College, especially among the Chinese boys. To-day there is in Hongkong one of our worthy solicitors, Wei On, a Hongkong boy, who, while home at school at Cheltenham, was successful in beating all the competitors from the other public schools in England at gymnastics and carried off the public school championship. (Applause.) I am sure there are here to-day many Wei Ons only waiting the opportunity to emulate his skill in the gymnasium. (Applause.) Why should this College not have a gymnasium, and why should this College not have a football club? These are questions which I will leave to you, boys, and your masters to ponder over during the holidays. I trust you will all enjoy these holidays most thoroughly, and I think you cannot do better than spend a portion of your time in considering these matters.

After touching on the resignation of Mr. Chiu, one of the Chinese masters, who he said had done yeoman service in the College, the CHAIRMAN concluded by saying—I have nothing more to say except again to express the hope that you will thoroughly enjoy the holidays which you have all so well deserved. (Applause.)

Dr. WRIGHT said—I have to thank you, Sir, for the kind and encouraging words you have just addressed to us. You have alluded to the report on the Upper School in which Lord Suidale took an active part. I am glad to have the opportunity of publishing a fact that is not yet known to Lord Suidale himself. In the oral examinations almost exclusively conducted by him, the class masters who were present and the boys spoke in the highest terms of the patience and forbearance shown them; in fact I may admit that there was a tacit assumption that they preferred Lord Suidale to myself. Another point, Sir, on which you touched was the resignation of Mr. Chiu Chitung Senior Chinese Assistant. As his services do not terminate till the end of the month his resignation could not be referred to in my report. Mr. Chiu may be said to have spent his life in the school. After five or six years' tuition in the Central School he became a master in 1870, and for thirty years has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of both the late Dr. Stewart and myself. The office of Senior Chinese Assistant is a highly important one, for the opportunities it affords of exercising influence over Chinese masters and boys, and in this influence Mr. Chiu has been conspicuously successful. I am also, Sir, grateful to you for your reference to my relations with the Governing Body. I have been always treated with just consideration by its members, and have endeavoured to discharge my duties faithfully. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—Boys, I am now going to say a few words which will be more pleasing to you than all the reports you have heard from Dr. Wright and myself. To-day you leave here and are not required to return to school until 23rd February. Enjoy yourselves thoroughly and come back here with renewed vigour and eager to renew your battle with books.

On the call of the boys, cheers were given for the Queen, the Governor, Mr. Stewart Lockhart and the ladies and gentlemen visitors.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, three cheers and a tiger were given for Dr. Wright and the masters.

Continuing, Dr. Wright said it was a matter of general regret that His Excellency the Governor was deterred by sickness—a severe attack of bronchitis—from being present that day. Those who attended the prize distribution last year would remember that he looked forward with very great pleasure to performing the same kind act in 12 month's time. It was, however, very appropriate that the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart should take His Excellency's place, not only as Colonial Secretary but as chairman of the governing body of the College. Mr. Lockhart had always been closely connected with the college and had had considerable acquaintance with its working. In fact Mr. Lockhart's connection with the educational work of the college might be said to go back to 1892, when he was associated in the consideration of financial and other matters of discussion which were engaging the attention of Government. They, therefore, welcomed him very

warmly on that occasion, and he would now ask him to distribute the prizes.

The CHAIRMAN then distributed the prizes as follows:—

OXFORD L CALS, 1899.

Seniors.—C. B. Hayward, A.A.; Li Chi-on, A.A.; Tse Ching-fong, A.A.; Wong Tak kwong, A.A.

Junior.—Ghulamali.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Senior Morrison—I Tse Ching-fong.

Junior Morrison—IV Tang Wing-fat.

Stewart—I Hung Hing kam.

Senior Belilios—IC—Ghulamali.

Junior Belilios—IIA—Lau Hing lun.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Translation—E-C IA Tang Chi kau, Watch given by Sir T. Jackson.

Translation—C-E III B, Chan Shui un, Watch given by H. N. Mody, Esq.

History—IA, Pun Chenuk, "Men of the Times," given by Sin Cheung, Esq.; IB U Yuk hong, "Yangtze Valley," given by Leung Shin kong, Esq.; IC Fakkeera, "Idylls of the King," given by Tam Tsz kong, Esq.

II A—Hung Kwok-leung, "Tales from Shakespeare," given by Chan H-wan, Esq.; II B—Chak Yuk tong, "English Phrases," given by Wong Sui tong, Esq.; III A—Chung In, "Life of Bismarck," given by Leung Shin kong, Esq.; III B—U Krau po, "Shakespeare," given by the Government; II C—F. Ellis, "Tom Brown's Schooldays," given by Ip Cheung-wa, Esq.

COMPOSITION.

IA—Tang Chi kau, "Conquest of Peru," given by W. Whitley, Esq.; IB—Li Kam-tsun, "History of China," given by Yuen Nai-on, Esq.; IC Senior, E. Humphreys, "Biblical Literature," given by Tsoi Chue Bee, Esq.; Junior, F. Penning, "War Album," given by Leung Shin-kong, Esq.; II A—Au Weng-ching, "Heroes of Modern Days," given by Ip Shun-kam, Esq.; II B—Chan U tsung, Pencil case, given by Lu In-wing Esq.; III A—Ko Po-sham, Pencil case, given by Lau Chak-min, Esq.; III B—Pa: Shi-ki, pencil case, given by Wau Kam-tsu, Esq.; II C—Senior, J. Wilson, "Captain's Courageous," given by the Government; Junior Ah Wee, "Fairy Tales," given by the Government.

CLASS PRIZES.

I. A—1st, Tse Ching-fong, Merit; 2nd Hung Hing-kam, Merit; 3rd, Ho Shai-weng, "Bright's History" (3 vols.), given by Leung Yan-po, Esq.

I. B—1st, Wong Kū, "History of Our own Times," given by I. O. Madar, Esq.; 2nd, Pun Min, Pencil-case, given by Ng Kwok-ching, Esq.

I. C Senior—1st, C. B. Hayward, Watch given by the Head Master; 2nd, S. Small, "Sixty Years a Queen," given by the Government; Junior—1st, Ramjahn, "Decisive Battles," given by the Government; 2nd, C. Humphreys, "Life of St. Paul," given by the Government.

II. A—1st, Kwok Ying-kūn, Watch, given by Ho Tung, Esq.; 2nd, Li Shin, Pencil, given by the Government.

II. B—1st, Fung Mun-chak, Watch, given by Ho Tung, Esq.; 2nd, Yeung Kūn, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

II. C Senior—1st, J. Solomon, "Treasure Island," given by Fung Wa-chun, Esq.; 2nd, J. Ellis, "David Copperfield," given by Fung Wa-chun, Esq. Junior—1st, W. Mooney, "Robinson Crusoe," given by Ko Yik-kam, Esq.; 2nd, Hashim Khan, "Ingoldsby Legends," given by Mok Wan-sheung, Esq.

III. A—1st, Lau Hing-lun, Merit; 2nd, Chan Mun-to, Watch, given by Ho Fuk, Esq.; 3rd, Wong Shing-sheung, Pencil-case, by Mok Kun-yuk, Esq.

III. B—1st, Yung Kai-poung, Watch, given by the Consul General for Portugal; 2nd, Chan Chi-shang, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

IV. A—1st, Tang Weng-fat, Merit; 2nd, To Chung-ping, Watch, given by the Consul General for Portugal; 3rd, Wong Lin-yan, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

IV. B—1st, Ling Kiu shang, Watch, given by Siu Tak-fan, Esq.; 2nd, Ching Tak fan, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

IV. C—1st, Chan Pui-n, Watch, given by Chan Kai ming, Esq.; 2nd, Chan Sz-yui, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

V. A—1st, Lo Kam chak, Watch, given by Hū Shun-chun, Esq.; 2nd, Pun Tsun, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

V. B—1st, Tsang King-sheung, Watch, given by Lau Wai-chun, Esq.; 2nd, Chan Sz-po, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

V. C—1st, Chan Tsz-ip, Watch, given by Lau Wai-chun, Esq.; 2nd, Pau Wing, Pencil-case, given by the Government.

VI. A 1st, Sit Kwok-kau, Watch, given by the Tung Wa Hospital Committee; 2nd, Tse Tsung-kan, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VI. B 1st, Chan Yik-neng, Watch, given by the Tung Wa Hospital Committee. 2nd, Lo Shiu-ting, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VI. C 1st, Chan Pak-tong, Watch, given by Li Shūn, Esq.; 2nd, Motanboy, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VII. A 1st, Li Pun-shiu, Watch, given by Li Chi-ming, Esq.; 2nd, Miu Ying-shan, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VII. B 1st, Chan Chi-nam, Watch, given by the Government; 2nd, Yeung Shu-tai Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VII. C 1st, Chan Wai-ting, Watch, given by the Government. 2nd, Li Pak-king, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VIII. A 1st, Li Tung-tsun, Watch, given by the Government. 2nd, Ip Ying-nim, Pencil Case, given by the Government. 3rd, Ngan King-hoi, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VIII. B 1st, Chan Wai-san, Watch, given by the Government. 2nd, Wong Lin, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

VIII. C 1st, Li Oi-fa, Pencil Case, given by the Government. 2nd, Yeung Ting-san, Pencil Case, given by the Government.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "WEEKLY PRESS."

SIR.—It is right that the public, and especially those who, during last year, responded to the appeal made to them in aid of establishing a Diocesan Girls' School, should be informed of the progress made in that matter by the Committee, and of their proposals for the immediate opening of the school. I know of no better means of conveying this information to the large number of subscribers and others who may be interested in the education of girls in the Colony than through the public Press. I shall therefore be very much obliged to you if you will give the following facts such a place in your paper as you think they deserve.

About a year ago a public meeting was called at the suggestion of the Bishop of Victoria, and it was agreed that it was necessary to make provision for the education of Eurasian and other girls in Hongkong. This need was made the more apparent by the fact that Miss Johnstone, whose school at Fairlea is well known, was obliged to relinquish her care of girls other than Chinese in order to make room for the increasing applications from Chinese girls. This seemed a pity, as Miss Johnstone had so long provided a home for these girls; and she herself was very sorry to have to shut her doors to them. It was, however, inevitable since the Baxter Mission at Fairlea was established for work amongst Chinese only, and had gone out of its province in taking up another work. It had gratuitously done this on account of its pressing need, and because there was insufficient provision first elsewhere. It thus became evident that something must be done, as the 20 or so girls with Miss Johnstone would be practically unprovided for after the beginning of the present year. There was reason to believe that once started such a school as was proposed would ultimately be self supporting. It was necessary, however, to ask for help for starting the work and it will probably be necessary to ask for some further help during the first year or two. The public responded by giving us over \$2,200 and this sum was supplemented by about \$460 collected in England, and a small legacy of \$600. The lease of a house (Rose Villa West) has now been secured, but this is likely to be only

temporary, as we expect that we shall need an additional or a larger house. During the past ten months we have been trying to find a suitable superintendent. The difficulties have been very great; but it is hoped that a lady will be appointed in England during the next few days. As soon as this is done, an assistant—a qualified teacher—will also be appointed.

In the meantime Miss Johnstone has kindly promised to superintend the purchase of sufficient furniture for the school, and to go into residence on February 1st with those girls who are to be transferred from Fairlea and who, during the holidays now passing, have no home to go to. Thus all will be in readiness for the formal opening of the school and the commencement of the work on February 15th.

The School is managed by a committee of ladies, originally appointed, with power to add to their number, at the public meeting which inaugurated the scheme, and is under the patronage of Lady Blake, who takes a great interest in it.

As there was possibly some misunderstanding in the first instance as to the kind of education to be given owing to the use of the words "a liberal education" in the original resolution, it would be clearly understood that there is no intention of aiming at what is sometimes called "a Higher Education," but that the ordinary English subjects will be taught, and such things as will be most useful to the girls in the positions in life that they are likely to occupy. If a "liberal education" in any technical sense is desired they will certainly have to go elsewhere for it. The object of the school is to provide a home for homeless ones and to give a Christian education to European and Eurasian girls in the colony of Hongkong. The school will endeavour to earn a grant-in-aid from the Government after annual examination by the Inspector of Schools, and thus the scheme of work will be in some measure determined by the Education Code.

Will you kindly add that I shall be very glad to give any further information to any one who will apply to me for it, in regard to terms of admission, course of studies, hours of work, fees, &c., and also to receive any suggestions from those who are interested in the work?

May I take this opportunity of expressing the sincere thanks of the Committee to all who have helped us to start the school.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. F. COBBOLD

(Hon. Sec. & Treas.)

Hongkong, 22nd January, 1900.

P.S.—I append a statement of the accounts which have been audited.

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

In account with the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, treasurer.

1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1899. Dr.	\$ c.
To Advertisements	14.40
To Printing	10.00
To Telegram to London	14.00
To cheque Book	2.00
To Petty Cash	1.60
To Balance	3,321.56
	\$3,364.56

1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1899. Cr.	\$ c.
By Edmund Sharp, Legacy	600.00
By Donations in Hongkong	2,271.40
By £45 12s., Collected in England	462.02
By Interest	31.14
	\$3,364.56

R. F. Cobbold,
Hon. Treas.

Examined and found Correct (Sd.) Wm. A. CHURCHMAN.
18th January, 1900.

The steamer *Libelle*, of Singapore, has been sold to a firm at Manila, who will shortly transfer her from the British to a Spanish firm for employment in the inter island trade in the Philippines. The Singapore steamer *McAlister* and the barque *Spinaway* have also been sold to a firm at Manila.

All the hills surrounding Foochow, says the *Echo*, were capped with snow from the 8th to the 11th inst, inclusive. At Doong Liang it is reported to have been 6 feet 6 inches deep, but this was probably in a drift: the thermometer there was 4 degrees below freezing point. There has not been so much snow there since 1893.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL.

ADDRESS BY BISHOP HOARE.

The annual prize distribution took place at the Diocesan School and Orphanage on the 24th inst. at noon. In the absence through indisposition of His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, K.C.M.G.), the chair was occupied by the Right Reverend the Bishop of Victoria (Dr. Hoare), who was supported by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold and Mr. G. Piercy, jun. (headmaster). There were also present among others, the Rev. F. J. Johnson, the Rev. F. H. France, the Rev. F. Flynn Mr. W. T. Tucher.

The HEADMASTER, previous to submitting the annual report, said he wished to say how pleased they were when they heard that the University of Cambridge had conferred upon the Bishop the degree of doctor of divinity, and to offer their congratulations to him for this mark of appreciation. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Piercy proceeded to read the report as follows:—

"Including some who attended a very short time, the total number of scholars was 272, against 235 last year. School was taught on 245 week days. The average attendance has risen from 120 to 143.16. Except some very young boys, all who had fulfilled the Government requirements, and attended on 100 days were presented for examination by H.M. Inspector of Schools. 136 were examined, 126 passed, or 92.6 per cent. Last year 96 passed out of 107, so that while the percentage is slightly lower, the Government grant earned by a larger number is 42 per cent. more. In copy-writing and English history, 100 per cent. passed; reading 93; grammar and geography 93; arithmetic 91; dictation 90; physical geography 82; Euclid and algebra 76; mensuration and elementary science 75; geometrical drawing 25 per cent.

"Fourteen candidates entered for the Oxford Local Examination in July: 10 passed, viz.:—5 in the Junior, 5 in the Preliminary. As only 20 Hongkong boys were successful, we can claim half. In December, 9 boys entered for Pittman's Shorthand Elementary Examination, but the results have not yet come from England. In March Messrs Sykes and Frampton, experienced teachers, arrived in the Colony, and have, with Mr. Tanner and Mrs. Arnold, done most excellent work, as shown by the foregoing figures. Mr. Tanner this month left for Queen's College; a new master is expected shortly from England.

"A small sickroom has just been added, and new kitchens built; the old kitchen will be removed from the middle of the playground, so giving greater facilities for playing football and cricket; a tennis court made on the lower terrace, a new entrance provided, and a wall built round the playground—improvements long needed. The health of the boarders has, on the whole, been very good. There has been no serious illness, and very little fever. The boys were regularly drilled by a Sergeant from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and during the summer months were taken in a steam launch for swimming and sea bathing twice a week. Through the kindness of Rev. R. F. Cobbold they had a picnic on Boxing Day to the island of Lan-tao, which was much enjoyed. The masters arranged athletic sports for the occasion. The prizes were subsequently presented by Mrs. France at a concert in the school-room, when Mr. J. W. Kew most kindly exhibited an excellent phonograph. The drum and fife band has been instructed by a corporal of the Hongkong Regiment Band."

"We desire to thank Doctors Atkinson and Bell for kindly attending sick boys; Dr. Chadwick Kew for dental aid; Mr. Hagen and Mr. J. W. Kew for assistance at concerts; and the following friends for prizes:—Sir T. Jackson, Hon. E. R. Bellios, C.M.G., Hon. W. M. Goodman, Hon. Wei Yank; Messrs D. R. Crawford, Choy Leep Chu, D. Elphinstone, Fung Wa Chenn, D. Gillies, Ho Tung, T. Hunter, H. Hastings, A. Mackie, J. Witcomb.

The Rev. R. F. Cobbold has attended weekly to give religious instruction to the eldest boys; and has examined the whole school in their scripture lessons. His report is appended.

"In response to the offer of the Trustees of the Bellios Prizes and Medal Fund, we had

pleasure in recommending Choy Po Sin, Cheung U Kwong, H. J. Ahee, as deserving recognition for special diligence and progress. I understand they will receive prizes at the City Hall."

The following is the Rev. Mr. Cobbold's report:—"I have examined 109 boys in their Holy Scripture lessons, and find both the written and oral work for the most part well and accurately done. The boys throughout the school gave evidence of careful instruction, and answered intelligently. The memory work was good, particularly in classes 4 to 2. Owing to the elementary knowledge of English of the youngest boys, particular care must be taken that in memory work they be taught to pronounce words clearly and correctly, and to repeat passages slowly. I think it would be a good thing if some instruction in religious subjects could be given in Chinese to Chinese boys, as, in some cases, it is evident that they do not understand the English words they try to use. On the whole, the work is satisfactory, and quite up to the standard of former years. In each class there are several boys ready for promotion, who will do credit to the teaching of the next higher class.

The Bishop having distributed the prizes, delivered an appropriate speech for the occasion. After regretting the absence of His Excellency, and remarking that there was not a man in the colony who sympathised more with what was going forward in the colony than His Excellency, his Lordship said there was one thing which was born in upon his mind as he heard the report, and that was that there was progress all along the line—progress in numbers, progress in the Government grant, progress with regard to the buildings and playgrounds. Personally he was heart and soul in favour of boys having as much room for play and as much time for play as possible, so that they were not let to neglect their duties through it. He thought that on the whole they might offer their hearty congratulations and thanks to Mr. Piercy and also to his masters who had followed him so manfully all through the year. (Hear, hear.) The report certainly showed that right down good work had been done, and they might also congratulate not only the masters on the work they had done, but also the committee. When they had a school worked as this was being worked by Mr. Piercy and his colleagues the committee had practically very little to do and absolutely no anxiety. But he thought they might congratulate not only the committee but the whole colony might be congratulated on the successful working of that school. That school was a very special phenomenon in that colony. They had should he say, the advantage or disadvantage of not being a Government school. Owing to the advantage of not being a Government school they had the advantage of being able to teach Christianity. They had the advantage of being able also to maintain the good old principles of the Church of England in that that school, and he felt that for that reason the whole Colony was to be congratulated that that school was being successfully worked. The British Government all over the world never undertook the teaching of Christianity for reasons which might be wise or which might be unwise—he would not discuss the point—but in that school they had liberty to teach Christianity, and therefore they were at liberty to fulfil a most important duty to an enormous section both of their fellow countrymen and their fellow-men, both with regard to those of European parentage and with regard to those of Chinese parentage. He had been giving prizes that morning to boys from Formosa, Foochow, Borneo, New Zealand and Australia. That school provided an education for boys of European parentage from all these different places, and it was a most important work. It would never do for them as Christian people to let their fellow-countrymen have their children brought up without having the opportunity of getting a Christian education. Here they had a school which not only educated these boys but took them from these distant places, boarded them, gave them a Christian education, and the advantage of most kind motherly help from Mrs. Piercy—(hear, hear)—and so far as could be possible in a school, a really Christian home life, and it also gave them the sound solid Christian education they had heard of in Mr. Cobbold's report. Then

again as to the Chinese, there was a curious phenomenon to be seen throughout the length of China—from Peking down to the Pakhoi—and that was the rush towards learning English on the part of the Chinese. He was right glad to see that school throwing open its doors to Chinese, so that the latter, in addition to learning English, might learn the fear of God, which was, as they knew, the beginning of knowledge. In conclusion his Lordship again expressed their hearty thanks to Mr. Piercy and masters and Mrs. Piercy for the excellent work which had been done in those schools during the past year. (Applause.)

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Bishop on the motion of the Rev. R. F. Cobbold.

His LORDSHIP said a few words in reply and then announced that the holidays would begin that day and that the school would reopen on the first March, an announcement which was received with applause from the boys.

Cheers for the Queen, his Lordship, the Visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Piercy and the masters having been given the proceedings terminated.

The following is the prize list:—

OXFORD UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATION, Junior:—R. T. Strangman, E. Long, C. E. Hastings, J. Compton, Choy Po-sin.

Preliminary:—B. R. Bagley, F. Drude, Fan Kam, W. J. Moy-hing, Cheung U-Kwong.

CLASS PRIZES.

VII Standard—R. T. Strangman.

VI Standard—(1) Lim Ts-hing, (2) F. Drude.

V Standard—(1) F. W. Shaw, (2) Pun I-cho.

IV Standard—(1) Wu Ting-yew, (2) A. Mackenzie.

III Standard—(1) U Wai-tak, (2) R. E. Shaw.

II Standard—(1) L. le Breton, (2) Wong Tien-po.

I Standard—(1) Chan Wing-tse, (2) Lung Chin-po.

SCRIPTURE PRIZES.

(Presented by the Bishop of Victoria.)

VII Standard—R. T. Strangman.

VI Standard—W. Moy-hing.

V Standard—Ng Tin-po, Hai Tsui-lan.

IV Standard—S. E. Wong.

III Standard—H. J. Ahee.

II Standard—E. Law.

I Standard—Cheung Shing-lai, J. Crolius.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

VII Mensuration and Euclid, C. E. Hastings; Drawing, Choy Po-sin.

VI Physical Geography, W. Moy-hing; Euclid, Tsoi Wai-loi; Algebra, Cheung U-kwon.

V Physical Geography, F. W. Shaw; Euclid and Algebra, Ng Tin-po.

IV Algebra, Wong Sing-hon; Physical Geography, P. E. Hastings; Shorthand, C. E. Hastings; Drawing, Lam Tso-ou; Music, B. R. Bagley; Drum and Fife Band, B. Henriquez; Drilling, A. Meester; Good Conduct (awarded by ballot of the boys), J. Compton.

That a "snake in the grass" is still an object to be feared and that he has a very real existence in Hongkong, a sad occurrence on Sunday only too plainly proves. Some residents at the Peak went for a ramble on Sunday morning on Black's Link, taking with them a black cocker spaniel, well known at the Peak for his glossy coat and sprightly ways. The dog, who was young and full of spirits, enjoyed himself to the top of his bent until the party reached Middle Gap. Shortly after passing that "Joey" ran down the hillside a few yards and returned instantly barking shrilly with pain, which he continued for some time, and as nothing could be done for him he died in less than a quarter of an hour in convulsions. It was found, on examination after his decease, that he had been bitten on the tongue by some venomous snake (either cobra or the deadly green snake common on the hills), and as he was hot with running the poison coursed all the more rapidly through his veins. The dog was prized beyond money value by his owners not merely for his beauty but for his intelligence and lovable disposition. It is very rare for a dog to fall a victim to a snake bite in this colony, but it is a danger to which they are exposed, and the fact here mentioned may possibly suggest to mothers precautions in the case of children and to adults in climbing the face of the hills and up the gullies, where the snakes find cover among the rocks.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on the 15th January.—Present: Messrs. R. M. Gay (Chairman), A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), A. Haupt, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Sibbs, Herbert Smith, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilson (Secretary).—

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the previous meeting (held 14th December) were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following had been admitted to membership since the previous meeting:—
Dec. 29, 1899—Dr. Jordan.

Jan. 3, 1900—The Deutsche Asiatische Bank.
" " "—The Imperial Bank of China.
" " "—Messrs. Hotz, Jacob & Co.
" " "—Messrs. H. Price & Co.

THE DANGEROUS GOODS AMENDMENT BILL.

Following up the decision taken at last meeting, a letter was, on the 16th December, addressed to the Government stating that it was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that the articles mentioned by the firms interested in the Arms Trade as not having hitherto been classed as dangerous should still be excluded from that category, and that they hoped the Government would take the same view.

A reply had been received from the Colonial Secretary stating that the Government were prepared to make certain amendments in the Bill in the direction indicated.

THE CONSERVANCY OF THE WOOSUNG RIVER.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 10th Dec., enclosing copy of despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with copies of correspondence on the above subject, and expressing a wish to receive any information the Chamber could supply as to the effect of the present state of the river on the trade of Hongkong.

Decided to write in reply to above that though the obstructions to navigation in the Woosung River did not directly affect Hongkong, the Chamber regarded the proposal with the fullest sympathy, and would hail with satisfaction any steps taken to improve river approaches to Shanghai.

THE ARMS AND AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL.

A letter having, on the 19th December, been received signed by eleven firms interested in the Arms Trade, drawing the attention of the Chamber to the provisions of the above Bill, which they considered would have an adverse effect on the trade and serve it, to divert to Macao, if carried into effect.

Correspondence was opened with the Government on the subject, and the further progress of the measure in Council was postponed, in order that the suggestions made by the firms and the Chamber may be considered.

The Chairman, after reading the last letter sent in by the Committee, expressed the hope that the Government would give it most favourable consideration.

CABLE RATES BETWEEN THE FAR EAST AND EUROPE.

The Secretary reported that replies, in acknowledgement of receipt of Chamber's circular letter of 6th October, had been received from—

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, dated 10th November.

The Toronto Board of Trade, dated 14th November.

The Seattle Chamber of Commerce, dated, 24th November.

A letter was also received, on the 8th January, from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, dated 19th December, handing copy of a despatch addressed by that Chamber to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this question.

Read letter from the London Manager of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., dated 23rd Nov., acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter and resolutions of the 6th Oct., and stating that a proposal had been made to H.M.'s Government by his Company several months previous for the general lowering of their tariffs, but that up to date of writing no reply had been received.

It was decided to reply asking for copy of the letter in which these proposals were made.

HONGKONG AND CANADIAN PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

Read letter from the Agent of the Canadian Pacific Co., dated 15th Dec., calling attention to the fact that exports from Hongkong are entitled, under the British Preferential Tariff, to participate in the advantages of that Tariff, but that the Minister of Customs had not included this Colony in the list of British Possessions to which it should be applied, and expressing the hope the subject might be deemed of sufficient importance to receive investigation by the Chamber.

Resolved to address the Government on the subject, and ask that it be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

Read letters from the Colonial Secretary, dated 8th January, transmitting for the information of the Chamber copy of a despatch from H.B.M.'s Consul at Manila covering copy of the new U.S. Provisional Customs Tariff and Regulations in the Philippines issued on 23rd Oct. 1899, together with copy of general orders notifying which are the sub-ports of entry. The Consul had compared the new Regulations with those previously issued and gave the result of his comparison. The matter was referred to the firms interested in the Manila trade for consideration and report.

THE PHILADELPHIA COMMERCIAL MUSEUM AND THE CHAMBER.

Read two letters from the director of the Philadelphia Museum, dated respectively the 27th and 29th Nov., stating that in pursuance of the action of the Chamber in accepting membership on the International Advisory Board of the Museum, they had pleasure in forwarding two diplomas of membership, one in name of the Chamber and one in that of the Secretary, and would send a third on being advised of name of the Chairman. The second letter suggested the admission of the Museum to honorary or corresponding membership of the Chamber in order to make the relation reciprocal.

After some discussion, during which it was ascertained that the Committee had no power, under the bye-laws, to elect honorary members it was, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Whitehead, decided to write to the Director of the Museum and say that the Chamber had decided to place them on the list of correspondents, and to supply them with the annual report.

FOURTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

Read letter received 2nd January, from the Secretary of the Organizing Committee of the above Congress desiring to know whether this Chamber wished to submit any resolutions on the particular subjects mentioned in his letter of 7th July last.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to move that the individual members of the Chamber be asked to send in before the 31st inst. any suggestions they may have as to the resolutions which might usefully be brought by their delegates before the Congress, such papers to be circulated to members of the Committee, and if necessary, a special meeting of the Committee to be afterwards held to consider same.

The CHAIRMAN seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The following is the list of subjects mentioned in the letter above referred to:—

- 1—Commercial Relations between the Mother Country and her Colonies and Dependencies.
- 2—Inter-Colonial Trade Relations.
- 3—Foreign and Colonial Bounties.
- 4—Foreign Competition.
- 5—Boards of Labour Conciliation and Arbitration.
- 6—Codification of the Commercial Law of the Empire.
- 7—Bills of Exchange: uniform procedure.
- 8—Bills of Lading Reform.
- 9—Commercial Education.
- 10—The Decimal system of Weights, Measures, and Currency.
- 11—Light Dues.
- 12—Railways; Light Railways; Railway Communication with India and the East.
- 13—Secret Commissions.
- 14—Arbitration for International Disputes.
- 15—Imperial Trade Marks Registration and Patent Law.

16—Cable Communication: Construction, Rates, Codes.

17—Steamship Communication. Rates, Subsidies, War Risks, Insurance.

18—Close Connection between Governments and Chambers of Commerce by establishment of commercial Advisory or Consultative Councils, Home and Colonial.

19—Supply of Government publications to Chambers of Commerce and Mutual Interchange of Documents.

20—Representation of United Kingdom in Colonies and in other parts of the Empire for the promotion of mutual trade.

21—Appointment of an Imperial Council to consider commercial questions of Imperial interest.

22—Copyright.

23—Municipal Trading.

24—Sugar Bounties.

25—Defences of the Empire.

And the organising Committee is willing to receive resolutions on any economic and non-political subject which the Chamber and the organising Committee consider suitable for discussion.

THE FRIARS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE QUESTION COMES TO AN ISSUE.

PROMPT WORDS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 19th January.

The religious controversy is the question of the hour, over shadowing the struggling insurrection and even the plague and the exasperating custom-house. Nothing has so stirred Manila for months as the present growing excitement over the suggested reinstatement of the friars in the provincial parishes.

The trouble first came to public notice a few days ago with the publication of an alleged interview given by the Archbishop Chappell, and telegraphed by the correspondent of a Madrid newspaper. The interview was obtained second-hand through two Dominicans, and at best, it can only be said to embody the impressions of the holy men, gathered in conversation with the archbishop. At any rate the sayings of Chappell thus indirectly reported, leaked out through the columns of an energetic Manila paper, and the otherwise peaceful Filipinos immediately proceeded to work themselves up into a state of high excitement; for the report was decidedly favorable to the friars and the more discerning ones saw as plain as day, the beginning of a movement to arm the hated friars with all the old privileges and authorities enjoyed during the days of Spanish rule.

After the publication of the article, a very short time elapsed before the archbishop was presented with a petition signed by forty-three of the principal professional and business men of the Santa Cruz district of Manila. A delegation waited on General Otis and presented him with a copy of the petition, which set forth their grievances and called attention to the unfortunate and unbearable circumstances that would arise in the event of the return of friars to the parishes or vicarages. The Spanish papers were quick to take up the discussion and vigorous expression and strong feeling were and are everywhere apparent.

Other parishes and districts took up the subject and many resolutions and petitions followed in quick succession. The highest and best Spaniards and Filipinos throughout the whole city and in Cavite and San Roque became interested and before anyone realized it a regular religious typhoon was brewing. Finally Sr. Torres the attorney-general, visited the military governor and asked for some expression from him to meet the emergency. Torres represents all that is best among the Filipinos and such a request from him is an indication of the extent to which the city has been moved. General Otis replied as follows that there was no necessity for the Filipinos to fear that friars will again be forced upon them against their wishes—and that if the Church authorities assign friars to curacies and these assignments are obnoxious to the people they will not be compelled to accept them. Continuing he assured everyone of the fullest enjoyment of all consti-

tutional rights and individual liberty. These words have been widely disowned and have in a great measure quieted the trouble.

In the meantime the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Chappell rests somewhat under a cloud; but he in his turn seems to have been misquoted or misunderstood for when approached on the subject, he stated very clearly, that if the Filipinos do not want the friars to fill curacies, it will not be attempted to force them on the people. Thus to a certain extent the excitement seems to be unwarranted; but in general the incident has had a wholesome effect as it has indicated beyond a doubt, the opinions of the public.

The religious question has been everywhere apparent from the very first, but the activity of the insurrection has to a great extent subordinated it. Now with the opening of the provinces and the spread of civil government the question of the friars and the church ownership of lands and estates has been brought to an issue, and most interesting developments are bound to follow.

Months ago responsible delegates from the southern islands came to Manila to discuss matters but the climax was carefully avoided. While at present every effort is being put forward to bring about conciliation until the insurrection is wiped out, the authorities fully realize that the gravest question of all is near at hand and they are preparing themselves to meet it and justly unravel the tangle.

MICAO.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

20th January.

DARING ESCAPE FROM PRISON.

Yesterday morning at about half-past nine three Chinese prisoners, who were undergoing life sentences, made a daring bid for freedom. They escaped by way of the roof of the Leal Senado and one of them got clear away. Another fell from the roof to the ground and broke his legs and one or two ribs. He was picked up and removed to the Hospital. The third was arrested in the street adjoining the gaol. These incidents have been rather frequent of late and are beginning to be severely commented upon. There is no fault to be found with the prison itself, but there is reason to believe that there are not sufficient guards. I understood that a few days before the escape the turnkey applied to the Attorney-General for more men, but that no notice was taken of the application.

BUMOURED SALE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC GARDENS.

I understand that an extraordinary transaction on the part of the Government will soon come to light, and that is the selling of the San Francisco Public Gardens. This is an item of news which will arouse the greatest indignation among the general community, as the Gardens have long been a most popular place of resort, being crowded in the evenings of both winter and summer, and yet for the sake of a few hundred dollars the public are to be deprived of them! It is always understood that it is the duty of the governing body to endeavour to improve the health of the community by multiplying open spaces and doing away with insanitary dwellings. The name of Senhor Horta e Costa will long be remembered for the valuable work he did in this direction, for it was due to His Excellency's exertions that the filthy quarters of Volong and Tap-siac were swept away and the beautiful Avenida de Vasco da Gama came into existence. It is to be hoped that the matter will be ventilated at an early meeting of the Leal Senado, and that if not too late the Gardens will be retained for the benefit of the public.

Yesterday afternoon Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for sale by auction the leasehold property situated at the Peak, registered in the Land Office as rural building lot No. 20, and known as "Dunnottar." The area of the property is 36,650 square feet. The lot is held for the residue of a term of 75 years, commencing from the 1st August, 1842. The annual Crown rent is \$26. The lot is occupied by a five-roomed house with bath rooms, drying room, outhouses, tennis court, and garden. Mr. N. Mumford was the purchaser for \$16,000.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE CHUNG NGOI SAN PO.]

The Canton Government has received a telegram from the Luk-Fung district saying that about ten thousand bad characters have assembled for the purpose of raising a rebellion which is likely to take place sooner or later. They intend to occupy the city of Luk-Fung first. The Canton Government is earnestly asked to send soldiers there in post-haste, otherwise the city in question will fall into their hands without any difficulty, for the citizens are exceedingly weak.

The 11th February next is the birthday of the Empress. All the Canton officials, civil and military, high and low, will assemble in Mau-Shau Kung to hold a thanksgiving service.

On the day of the departure of Viceroy Tan-chung-lin from Canton the people were very excited. A broom was placed in front of many shops, i.e. to say, they have succeeded in driving away the devil. Many hundreds of brooms were taken to the wharf of Tin-Tsz-Ma-Tau, where Viceroy Tan embarked. There is at present a great demand for money in Canton, interest from 15 to 20 per cent. per annum being given by the banks to all money deposited for Viceroy Tan. His sons and all his staffs have withdrawn all the money deposited in the banks, which amounts to several millions of dollars.

Finding that the authorities are quite unable to cope with the pirates on the West and North river, the merchants have commenced to make arrangements with the leaders of the pirates promising to pay them a certain sum per annum as blackmail in order that their trade is not molested. The shops dealing in wood have promised to pay them \$12,000 for the wood carried down by the West River, and 4,000 for the wood carried down by the North River per annum. The leaders of the pirates have complied with their request, and made an agreement with them. The pirates have given to each of the wood shops a flag, bearing the mark of a lion, saying that if this flag is shown to the pirates there will be no trouble, whatever, and they have also promised to make good the loss of all the things taken away by the pirates in future.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL SHIELD COMPETITION—SECOND ROUND.

25TH COMPANY E.D., R.A. VERSUS B COMPANY, R.W.F.

The 25th Coy E.D., R.A., had a bye in the first round of the ties but B Co., R.W.F., put out C Co., R.W.F., by the respectable score of 8 goals to 1.

As B Co. in the match under notice repeated these figures, it will be recognized that they have a lively set of forwards who are perfectly well acquainted with the locality of the goal. Their goal average for their two shield ties is 16 goals for and 2 goals against, which is not at all bad. The match, as per heading, took place on the Hongkong Football Club's ground at 4 o'clock on Saturday, Mr. F. Brown acting as referee. The teams faced each other as follows:—

25th Co. E.D., R.A.: G. Wilkins, goal; Sgt. Rose and Sgt. French, backs; Cp. Parker, Sgt. Mullis and Gr. Gurney, halves; and Cpl. Robinson, Gr. Giles, Gr. Cooper, Gr. Hare and Br. Brown, forwards.

B Co. R.W.F.: Steed, goal; Williams and Ryan, backs; M-alor, Owens and Tomlinson, halves; and Gregory, Ainsbury, Clarke, Dawson and Bevan, forwards.

The Fusiliers left got away at the start, but the Artillery immediately retaliated and play was even for a little while. The inside left of the Artillery had a good shot at the Fusiliers' goal, but the keeper saved well; then an excellent centre by Gregory at the other end was well got rid of. The outside left of the R.A. (Brown) smartly kicked the opposing back, but shot badly; after which the Welsh left wing forced a corner. This was well taken, and from it Ainsbury got a short goal. The Artillery then made greater efforts, and after gaining a corner they kept up a prolonged attack until Robinson, their outside right, equalized with a

rather simple looking shot. The Gunners, however, could not keep this form up, and soon the Welsh were pressing them sorely. The Fusiliers forwards, when they got going, put in some good work, Gregory (outside right) being specially useful. They kept up a bombardment on their opponents' goal, the defence however being very stubborn, but at last Dawson (inside left) found the net and gave his side the lead. Later the same player scored another, and then Clarke in the centre missed a simple chance close in. The Welsh keeping up the pressure, half time arrived with the score:—

B Co., R.W.F., 3

25th Co., E.D., R.A., 1

At the restart Dawson, R.W.F., changed places with Bevan, going outside left.

Immediately the ball was in motion the Welsh went straight for the goal and Dawson scored.

In a little while this player added a fifth and the game lost all interest. Throughout the second half the R.A. had no show at all, and their opponents scored when they pleased. Ainsbury notched the sixth goal for the Welsh and Dawson the seventh, whilst the eighth was obligingly put through by Rose, the right back of the artillery, in endeavouring to divert a strong centre by Ainsbury. The whistle was blown before any more damage could be done, the figures at the finish reading:—

B Co., R.W.F., 8 goals

25th E.D., R.A., 1 goal

B Co. had a very weak team facing them, but still they are a good lot. As they are to meet either the R.E. or H Co. R.W.F. in the semi-final there is a strong chance of their taking part in the final. The strong division of their team is their forward line. Here Gregory and Ainsbury make a good right wing the former especially pleasing, and Dawson on the left is a boss in himself. The heavy score was principally due to the individual efforts of Dawson in the second half. Of the 8 goals, 5 were scored by him. Tomlinson (left), a very smart little player, was easily best of the halves, the centre half being rather weak. This division of the team as a whole is only moderate.

The backs had not much to test them, but they seemed capable enough. I should not think the 25th E.D., R.A. have had much practice judging by their display. The score against them renders it unnecessary to speak of their ability. They did not play well together, but French, Robinson, and Mullis occasionally did good work.

A Rugby football match was played on the 6th inst., at Yokohama, being the first game for many years there. The game ended in a draw of one try each.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG C. C. V. THE NAVY.

An eleven representing the Navy met the Hongkong C. C. on Saturday afternoon. The club made a good show, scoring 292 for five wickets, Rev. G. R. Vallings (84), Mr. K. W. Mounsey (71) and Captain Langhorne (59) especially distinguished themselves. The Rev. E. H. Salisbury, for the navy, had to retire through being injured in attempting a catch. Scores:—

THE CLUB.

Dr. Lowson, c sub, b Powlett	12
Captain Langhorne, c Farie, b Powlett	59
A. E. Hinds, b Powlett	9
Rev. G. R. Vallings, not out	84
K. W. Mounsey, b Strong	71
Captain Dyson, A.P.D., b Wood	34
J. E. Lee, not out	18
Extras	5
C. M. G. Burnie, A. G. Ward, Lieut. Thomson, R.A., and Lieut. Ball-Atton, R.W.F., did not bat.	

Total for 5 wickets 292

THE NAVY.

Lieut. C. Smith, c Lee, b Lowson	0
Dr. Duck, c and b Lowson	14
Lieut. Powlett, b Lowson	4
Lieut. Farie, c Ball-Atton, b Lee	8
Lieut. Strong, Ball-Atton, b Lee	14
Lieut. Wood, b Lowson	4
Lieut. Wright, c Lee, b Lowson	0
Capt. Jellicoe, c Lowson	4

Lieut. Moreton, c Thomson, b Lang-	
horne	8
H. W. E. Manisty, not out	4
Rev. E. H. Salisbury, did not bat	0
Extras	8
Total	68

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE NAVY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lowson	13	5	31	6
Lee	13	4	28	2
Langhorne	4	balls	—	1

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

OFFICERS OF THE UNITED SERVICES V. CIVILIANS.

The match played yesterday (Thursday) between the officers of the United Services and the Civilians proved about the best contested Rugby game this season has produced. The Services had the stronger side, their superiority lying in their three-quarters and halves. Notwithstanding this the Civilians were the first to score. Johnson dribbling over and securing a try which remained unconverted. The Services obtained a penalty goal and at half time matters were equal, the register being:—

Services 1 penalty goal	3 points
Civilians 1 try	3 points

After the interval nearly all the play was in the Civilians' territory but they defended their lines very stubbornly.

The Services second score was the outcome of the most brilliant piece of play of the match. Lt. Gibbs made a splendid run along the right, for which he was most loudly and deservedly applauded, and passing at the right moment, enabled Wilkinson to get over and score a try. A very feeble attempt to convert was made.

The Civilians continued to have the worst of it, but they kept their opponents out and in fact gained the lead. Johnson broke away, dribbled right through the backs, and touched down in an excellent position. McMurtrie easily converted into a major and the score stood:—

Civilians	8 points
Services	6

This state of affairs was not allowed to continue long. The ball was punted behind the Civilians' goal and the defending back, Wood, being very tardy at playing it, Wilkinson dashed up but was obstructed by one of the three-quarters. This infringement the referee evidently considered had prevented a try, for he allowed one, which was converted. The Civilians after this made a decided effort to retrieve their position but were unsuccessful, the game ending with them on the attack.

Result:—

United Services, 1 placed goal, 1 penalty goal and 1 try	= 11 points
Civilians, 1 placed goal and 1 try	= 8 points

Gibbs, Stevens, Crozier, Tompkinson, and Wilkinson did good work for the Services; whilst McMurtrie, Cox, Hancock and Johnson were prominent for the Civilians.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

Bright cold weather was experienced during the meeting, and good entries for the various events resulted. The course was in better order than has generally been the case at this season, and though the greens were keen some good cards were returned.

MACEWEN CUP.

Dr. J. Bell	98	16	82
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	89	4	85
Capt. R. M. R. N.	93	11	87
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	102	13	89
M. A. L. Dalrymple	103	11	92

21 entries.

POOL.

Lieut. Farie, R.N.	94	14	80
" Moreton R.N.	97	14	83
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	99	13	86
Lieut. Macdonald, R.N.	106	16	90
" McKenzie Grieve R.N.	94	4	90

21 entries.

BOGEY CUP.

	down	(rec. strokes)	
Lieut. Field, R.N.	3	8	tie.
" J. A. Moreton R.N.	3	15	
Dr. J. Bell	5	12	
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	5	3	
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	7	10	

28 Entries.

An irregularity occurred in this last competition, one of the players returning apparently two cards for "Bogey" which was against the usual conditions—"one entry only allowed"—the Green Committee, however, on this occasion waived the right of disqualification, but it may be well to caution players against in future committing a breach of an ordinarily well known rule in cup competitions. Another point to which it may be well to draw attention is the copying of returns in place of handing in the original cards. This is not unfrequently done, but it is very undesirable for many reasons, and may lead to disqualification. In the case referred to above the copying of a card gave rise to a mistake on the part of the player, who apparently copied the wrong one, which he did not return, and so in place of winning the cup only tied for it, the second card gave "all even" with in Colonel, the score 77!

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN CO.

Only 13 members took part in the January Competition.

Gunner King registered his second win on both Cups. Below are the best scores:—

	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	H'cup.	Total.
* Bomb. King	8	26	22	21	97	
* Sergt. Lammert	28	34	31	26	93	
* Sergt. Major Smith	26	34	31	—	91	
Gunner I. G. Smith	28	28	23	6	85	
Gunner Cox	28	31	13	13	85	
Gunner Leggatt	26	24	24	9	83	
Gunner Mayson	20	31	19	13	83	
Capt. Sanders	19	32	17	16	83	
Gunner Wodehouse	25	23	24	10	82	
Gunner Hursthouse	22	16	27	16	81	

* Winners of spoons.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the eleventh report of the Board of Directors for presentation to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings, at 12 o'clock noon, on Tuesday, the 6th February, 1900:—

The Directors now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses, amounted to \$8,065.25. The Directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of one dollar twenty-five cents per share be paid, which, after writing off the Directors' and Auditors' Fees, will leave a balance of \$365.25 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and E. Jones Hughes retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Os Arnold and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

F. BENDER ON,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET 31st DECEMBER, 1899.	
31st Dec., 1899.	LIABILITIES.
Paid-up capital	180,000 00
Accounts payable	212 20
Dividends outstanding	878 60
Balance of profit and loss account	8,065 25
	\$188,976 05

31st Dec., 1899.	
ASSETS.	
Cash	5,884 89
Cost of property	182,021 17
Accounts receivable	1,052 99
	\$188,976 05

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1899.	Dr.	\$	c.
To charges		295 70	
To crew, rent and rates		1,997 62	
To fire insurance		263 81	
To commission to agents		671 60	
To repairs		749 46	
To balance brought forward		11,407 54	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—			
Dividend of \$1.25 per share	\$7,500 00		
Directors' fees	150 00		
Auditors' fees	50 00		
To be carried to new profit and loss account	365 25		
		8,065 25	

1st Jan., 1899.	Cr.	\$	c.
By balance brought forward		550 70	
31st Dec., 1899.			
By rents		11,407 54	
By interest		41 70	
By scrip fees		41 00	
		\$12,042 94	

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LTD.

The following is the report of the board of directors for presentation to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Thursday, the 1st February, 1900, at 3 p.m.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$34,648.66 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$179,088.41 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8 per cent on capital, or \$96,000, be paid to shareholders, and that 5 per cent or \$39,875, be written off the book value of steamers and launches, leaving a balance of \$43,213.41 to be carried forward to new account.

The steamers' earnings compared with those of the corresponding six months of the previous year show a falling off. This is, in a great measure, accounted for by the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the West River, the working of this branch of the Company's business having resulted in a loss.

During the half-year the *Heungshun* has undergone the usual annual repairs and docking under Government survey, and the *Powan* is now laid up to receive new boilers and for a general overhaul, the cost of which will be met by the sum which it is proposed to carry forward.

The *White Cloud* has been sold, and the loss on her book value, amounting to \$7,637.50, is provided for in the accounts now presented. To take the place of this steamer on the Canton-Macao Line, the *Lungshan* was withdrawn from the West River service, and the *Lungkiang* is also running temporarily on the same route.

The properties mortgaged to the Company have been revalued by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, whose valuations show them to be ample security for the sums advanced. The value of the Company's investments in shares has been adjusted to figures well within present market rates, the difference being passed to the credit of investment fluctuation account.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gordin and F. Henderson, offer themselves for re-election.

E. R. BELILIOS, Chairman.

31st Dec., 1899.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of steamers <i>Powan</i> , <i>Honam</i> and <i>Heungshun</i> and 4ths of <i>Katshan</i>		750,000 00	
Value of steam-launches <i>Lungshan</i> and <i>Lungkiang</i>		47,500 00	
Value of wharves, bulks, and moorings		26,411 70	
Value of properties at Wuchow and Kongkon		8,111 7	
Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee</i> and <i>Wo Lee</i>		13,000 00	
Value of coal, stores, and spare gear		1,250 00	
Value of furniture		750 00	
Value of shares in public companies		434,435 00	
Value of Chinese bonds		1,034 41	
Loans on mortgage		633,500 00	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		110,003 13	
Interest accrued to date		1,589 36	
Installments received on new tow boats and lighters, and new steam wheel steamers for West River trade		103,871 00	
Insurance premia paid for the year 1900		8,891 11	
Sundry debtors		8,402 23	
		\$2,170,124 81	

31st Dec., 1899.	LIABILITIES	\$.	c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of 25 each, fully paid up		1,200,000.00	
Amount of refund of capital of 25 per share on 10 shares unpaid		50.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund		600,000.00	
Amount at credit of equalization of dividend fund		9,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account		137,816.55	
Unclaimed dividends		5,135.00	
Sundry creditors		29,044.85	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account		179,088.41	
		\$2,170,84.81	

31st Dec., 1899.	Dr	\$.	c.
To amount paid for repairs to steamers		10,47.75	
To loss on sale of steamer <i>White Cloud</i>		7,637.50	
To subscriptions to Tung Wah Hospital and Soldiers and Sailors' Families' Funds		750.00	
To directors and auditors' fees		2,750.00	
To balance to be appropriated, viz:—			
Dividend at 8 per cent. on \$1,000,000		\$94,000.00	
To be written off value of steamers 39,375.00			
To be carried to new account 43,13.41			
		179,088.41	
		200,704.66	

30th June, 1899.	Cr.	\$.	c.
By balance brought forward from last account		54,648.66	
31st Dec., 1899.			
By net earnings of steamers		106,062.21	
By interest on investments		36,387.75	
By transfer fees		2.00	
By profit on sale of foreclosed property		3,385.00	
		200,704.66	

31st Dec., 1899.	Dr	\$.	c.
To balance		600,000.00	
30th June, 1899.	Cr.		
By amount at credit		600,000.00	
31st Dec., 1899.	Dr.		
To balance		9,000.00	
30th June, 1899.	Cr.		
By amount at credit		9,000.00	

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	13,160,974	12,061,298
Amoy	465,259	688,318
Foochow	13,733,065	12,413,384
Canton	6,998,430	4,913,484
	34,356,828	30,096,694

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	20,283,296	15,661,574
Amoy	12,345,300	11,729,245
Foochow	7,652,225	5,991,849
	40,280,821	33,386,668

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	25,694,154	22,783,272

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	26,039,571	24,963,397
Kobe	13,875,452	13,484,986
	39,915,023	38,448,383

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 17th January.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—Home wires report the silk centres as quiet, and quote Blue Elephants at 14/9, and Gold Kilings Fcs. 35/75. Raw Silk.—There has been a spurt this week and some 600 bales have been settled, Gold Kilings have been bought at Tls. 580 up to Tls. 587 1/2 and are now firmly held for higher rates. Native speculators are reported to be buying at Tls. 59. Yellow Silk.—about 250 bales have changed hand, and prices have advanced Tls. 5. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 4th to 12th January are 567 bales White, 96 bales Yellow and 168

bales Wild Silk. Re-Rocks And Hand Filatures. We do not hear of any business of importance. Steam Filatures.—A small parcel has changed hands of mixed sizes. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 67 bales to Continent, 3,138 bales to America, 20 bales to various ports. Wild silk.—The market is very weak for Raws and Filatures and the dealers are open to offers. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing, prices for Gum Wastes falling. Shantung Pongees.—About 2, 60 pieces have been done.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	68,972	47,174
Canton	24,784	24,138
Yokohama	16,167	16,263
	99,923	87,575

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	13,810	5,182
Canton	7,645	7,901
Yokohama	24,082	19,214
	47,537	32,597

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—The position of the market remains unchanged. Quotations for Formosa are \$80.50 to \$81.00; Saka 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—The continued advance in price is reported, some demands having come forward. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.40 to \$8.45	cl.
do. " 2, White	7.56 to 7.60	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.60 to 5.65	pel.
do. " 2, Brown	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.05 to 8.10	"
do. " 1, White	7.80 to 7.85	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.25 to 5.30	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.15 to 5.20	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.08 to 12.10	"
Shekloong	10.95 to 11.00	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per U. S. & C. steamer *Catania*, sailed on the 10th January. For New York:—5 cases human hair, 20 cases cantharides, 20 cases Saigon cassia, 24 cases bristles, 34 packages rattanware, 8 cases essential oil, 140 cases fans, 220 bales feathers, 35 cases cassia, 525 packages crackers, and 1,162 packages merchandise.

Per steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on the 15th January. For Marseilles:—434 bales raw silk, 200 bales pierced cocoons, 17 cases silks, 4 cases Chinaware, 10 cases tea, 38 packages private effect, 2 boxes silver, and 1 case feathers. For Lyons:—682 bales raw silk. For London:—10 chests opium.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Pencil.—There has been a good demand during the past week and rates have advanced, closing at \$922 1/2 for Patna and \$928 1/2 for Benares.

Malwa.—A transaction has been passed in this drug and prices have advanced. Current figures are as under:

New at \$960 with allowance up to 1 catties	
Old at \$970	
Persian.—Business has been meagre and rates are unchanged, closing at \$8.0 for only and \$6.5 to \$8.70 for paper-wrapped, according to quality	
Today's stocks are estimated as follows:—	
Patna	1,546 chests
Benares	476 "
Malwa	455 "
Persian	2,071 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 20	917 1/2	—	917 1/2	—	960	970
Jan. 21	917 1/2	—	917 1/2	—	960	970
Jan. 22	915	—	915	—	960	970
Jan. 23	912 1/2	—	912 1/2	—	960	970
Jan. 24	915	—	915	—	960	970
Jan. 25	922 1/2	—	922 1/2	—	960	970
Jan. 26	922 1/2	—	922 1/2	—	960	970

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Some demands having come from Canton, the prices are consequently going upward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.95 to 3.00
Round, Good quality	3.20 to 3.35
Long	3.40 to 3.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	3.20 to 3.25
Garden, No. 1	3.55 to 3.60
White	3.80 to 3.85
Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—1,000 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$92, 1,100 bales No. 12 at \$80 to \$91, 100 bales No. 16 at \$94 to \$101, 1,000 bales No. 20 at \$97 to \$105. Bengal Cotton:—224 bags at \$23.6, 100 bags at \$23.5. Grey Shirtings:—1,200 pieces 8 1/2 lbs Blue Seal at \$3.50, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Chop at \$4.72 1/2, 1,500 pieces 1 1/2 lbs. Snake and Elephant at \$3.42 1/2. White Shirtings:—500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.65, 300 pieces by 8 at \$5.10. T. Cloths:—750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.77 1/2, 300 pieces 8 lbs. V V at \$3.55, 1,875 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.72 1/2.

SHANGHAI, 13th January.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report). Piece Goods.—Despite the near approach of the annual settling day out market has been fairly active during the interval, though business is confined almost entirely to English makes still. The position here at present is undoubtedly very strong and holders of goods can pretty well dictate their own terms. There is a decidedly more hopeful feeling amongst the Tientsin men on account of the recent fall of snow in the North, which appears to have saved the situation, but now they want to buy they find it very difficult to obtain supplies and holders, both foreign and native, seem determined to make them pay up for their requirements. This will be the more necessary for them to do owing to the prominent place Szechuen has taken in the trade, which makes it very unlikely that Tientsin will be able to dominate over this market in future, as it has been doing for years past. The dealers appear to still have money to invest and a fair proportion of the settlements continue to be for prompt payment, but the tendency is now to buy for after China New Year delivery. The auctions, however, have not yet changed, which no doubt accounts for the quietness displayed there. As anticipated the dealers have commenced booking Yarns for delivery after China New Year and are paying an advance of fully two taels and a-half all round. All spinnings are in demand, but the large stock of India affords the best scope for their operations. A fair quantity of Japanese have been contracted for but it is reported that prices have since shown a considerable advance. Native Cotton is firmer owing chiefly to a speculative enquiry, today's quotation being T. S. 17.70 net for best Siam Machine Ginned.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 26th January

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	200 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144 1/2
Bank, on demand	145 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144 1/2
Bank, on demand	145 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON HAIPHONG.—	
on demand	2 1/2 % pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	.61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank—Buying Rate	10.19
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per oz	33

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG 26th January.—A fair amount of business has been transacted during the week under review, rates ruling from steady to strong in most stocks. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank advertises its general half-yearly meeting for 17th February, transfer books closing from 3rd February to 17th February inclusive.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet with only very small sales during the early part of the week at 343 per cent. prem., and later at 340 per cent. Market closes quiet at 339 per cent. Nationals have further declined to \$25 without sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of a few small sales of Unions and Traders at quotations and a small demand for Yangtszes at 115 there is no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires continue steady with sales at \$332 1/2 and \$335. China Fires are enquired for at \$38 without finding sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled quiet with some small sales at \$31 1/2, \$31 1/4 and \$31, market closing steady at \$31. Indos have changed hands at \$89, but sellers rule the market at time of closing; on time a few parcels were placed at \$94 and \$95 for June. Douglases remain unchanged and without business. China Mutuals continue on demand with no shares obtainable. China Manilas are still obtainable at quotation with no business to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been transacted at \$115 and more could be placed at the rate. Luzons continue unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Panjoms have changed hands at \$5.70 to \$5.90 for cash, closing with further small sellers at quotation. Charbonnages continue steady with further small sales. Oliver B's have ruled quiet with small sales at \$6, \$5.90 and close at \$5.75. Jelebus have been in demand but only a small business has resulted at \$12 1/2, \$12 1/4 and \$13 1/4, market closing firm at \$13 1/4. Queens and Great Easterus are neglected at quotation. Raubs have ruled rather firmer with sales and buyers at \$62.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue quiet at \$537 1/2 and no sales to report. Kowloon Wharves have also ruled weak, but with a fair business at \$8 1/4 for cash and \$85 1/4 for March, market closing steady at \$84. Amoy Docks continue on offer, but there is no business to report. Wanchais could be placed at quotation, but none seem available.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands changed hands during the early part of the week at \$116 and \$117 cum div. and later at \$114 1/2 ex div. Hotels have ruled quiet but steady at quotation with a small business. West Points which have been in some demand during the week have advanced with sales to \$40 cum div., after sales at \$37, \$38 and \$39, market closing steady at \$39 1/2 ex div. Humphreys have found further buyers at 19 1/4 and \$9.75. Kowloon Lands at \$28.

COTTONS.—With the exception of sales of Hongkongs at \$40 there is nothing to report. Quotations for the Northern mills are taken from latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands at 29, Electrics at 10 and 10 1/2 in large lots, closing with buyers. Ices at \$35 and \$140 in small lots. Watsons at \$16 and China Providents at \$9.25.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		(\$148.75, sellers)
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	3.9 p. ct. prem., =
China & Japan, ordy.	\$4	\$1.
Do. deferred	\$1	\$5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$ 6.
Foun. Shares	\$8	\$ 6.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	\$15, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 15, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$115, sales & buys.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 65.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 67.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 7.
Hongkong	\$100	\$40, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$5	\$1, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$0	\$9, sales & sellers
H. & C. B. Kery	\$50	\$29.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$0	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$1 1/2, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$0	\$1 1/2, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$14, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$142, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$0	\$4.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$7, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$3 1/2, prem. =
Insurance—		
Canton	\$70	\$150, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$8, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$17, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$33, buyers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 18, sales & buyers
Straits	\$20	\$2, sellers
Union	\$50	\$235, seller
Yangtze	\$60	\$115.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$115, ex div.
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9 75, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28, sellers
West Point Building	\$70	\$9, ex div. buys.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$46
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$350, sellers
Gr. Estn. & C'donian	\$1	90 cts.
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts., buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$13 1/4, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	50 cts., sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$8 1/2, sellers
Do. B.	\$4	\$7 1/2, sellers
Punjom	\$6	\$5.90, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Raubs	15s 10d	\$62, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$20 1/2, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$85, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$10, buyers
China Ordinary	\$10	\$10, buyers
Do.	\$5	\$5, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$11, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$31
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$89, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$100	\$250
Star Ferry	\$7 1/2	\$20, sales & sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$4 1/2, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 1/2	\$44 1/2
Watson, Ltd.	\$10	\$100, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 17th January.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisett & Co.'s Report).—A moderate business has been done, chiefly in Indo-China and Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares. The Yue Kang Ghee Factory Co. has been floated. We understand that each of the Telephone companies has sent in a tender to the Municipal Council Marine Insurance.—North China Insurance shares can be procured at Tls. 180. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—Business has been done at Tls. 62/64 cash, Tls. 64/66 for March, Tls. 65, Tls. 66, Tls. 67, and Tls. 66 1/2 for April. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 69. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are wanted at Tls. 65. Industrial. Shanghai Gas shares are wanted at Tls. 21 1/4, and offering at Tls. 215, cum the dividend of Tls. 8 due to-day. Ewo Cotton Mill shares were sold at Tls. 60 cash. Internationals at Tls. 72 for April, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 67 cash. Internationals are wanted for cash at Tls. 65. Shanghai Ice New shares were placed at Tls. 28,

and are offering. China Flour Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 35. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai were placed at Tls. 190 cash and Cooperatives at Tls. 190 for March. Taku Tug and lighter shares changed hands at Tls. 90, with exchange 103. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 66/67 1/2, and are wanted. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been selling at Tls. 265 to Tls. 270 cash, and Tls. 290 for March delivery. Loans.—The Shanghai Waterworks Co. advertise a new issue of 6 per cent. Debentures, to the amount of Tls. 1,000,000, to be made on 31st March. Tenders will be received till 15th March. This will form a second mortgage, the former issues of Tls. 250,000 having priority.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 17th January (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Our freight market presents no feature of special interest that hitherto has been altered, as regards rate, while coastwise steamers are busily employed in winter business at most remunerative rates. For New York via Suez:—since our last issue on the 28th December the *Cutania* and *Indravelli* have loaded and cleared, the former on the 4th instant and the latter on the 8th instant. The *Afridi* due on the 31st is expected to leave on the 20th, about which date the *Queen Eleanor* is expected. Cargo is by no means plentiful; rates remain unchanged. Rates of freight are:—London by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s., waste silk 4s. 6d.; tea 4s.; Northern continental ports by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s., waste silk 4s. 6d., tea 4s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s. 6d., waste silk 5s., tea 5s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 5s. 6d., waste silk 5s., tea 5s. 6d.; Hongkong via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s. 6d., waste silk 5s., tea 5s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 5s. 6d., waste silk 5s., tea 5s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s. 6d., waste silk 5s., tea 5s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 4s. 6d., waste silk 4s. 6d., tea 5s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. General, by Conference, tallow 3s. net, general cargo 3s. net, waste silk 3s. 6d. net, tea 4s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 3s. net, general cargo 3s. net, waste silk 3s. 6d. net, tea 4s. 6d. net; Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 3s. net, general cargo 3s. net, waste silk 3s. 6d. net, tea 4s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by rail, 20s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 1 1/2 gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents. per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbrid. New York via Suez, 3 s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 3 s. for tea, all net. Boston via Suez, 37s. 6d. general cargo 10s. extra for Turmeric, 42s. 6d. for tea, all net. Philadelphia via Suez, 37s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 42s. 6d. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2.20 per ton coal, Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2.20 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe, to Nagasaki, to Swatow, to Amoy, to Whampoa, and to Canton all closed; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, 24 cands.; to Amoy, 22 cands.; to Swatow, 22 cands.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Valetta* (str.), *Cowrie* (str.)
Stentor (str.), *Menelaus* (str.), *Bombay* (str.), *Benedict* (str.)
 For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—*Pyrrhus* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Parramatta* (str.) *Caledonia* (str.), *Annam* (str.), *Hilachi Maru* (str.).
 For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Wittenberg* (str.), *Holsatia* (str.), *Babelsberg* (str.), *Westphalia* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Algoa* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *Gaelic* (str.).
 For SA. DIEGO VIA KOBE.—*Carmarthenshire* (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
 For VICTORIA, B.C. VIA SHANGHAI.—*Tacoma* (str.).
 For PORTLAND, O.—*Aberghshire* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Queen Eleanor* (tr.), *Afridi* (str.), *Astoria* (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Yawala Maru* (str.), *Tinan* (str.), *Eastern* (str.).
 For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Chelydra* (str.).
 For BOMBAY, SINGAPORE AND CALCUTTA.—*Kagoshima Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—

ARRIVALS.

19, Taksang, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
 20, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Akebono, Jap. tor. b. destr. from London.
 20, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 20, Cathay, Danish str., from Antwerp.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Trym, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 21, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
 21, Antenor, British str., from Amoy.
 21, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 21, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
 21, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 21, Taifu, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
 21, Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
 21, Chowtai, British str., from Hongay.
 22, Chunsang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 22, Bisagno, Italian str., from Singapore.
 22, Genla, Aust. monitor, from Singapore.
 22, Kaifong, British str., from Chinkiang.
 22, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
 22, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 23, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 23, Karlsruhe, German str., from Yokohama.
 23, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 23, Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
 23, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 23, Valkyrien, Danish cruiser, from Saigon.
 23, Nanchang, British str., from Cebu.
 23, Tailee, German str., from Saigon.
 23, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
 23, Warfield, British str., from Batoum.
 23, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 24, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 24, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
 24, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 24, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Ayr, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 24, Castine, Amr. gunboat, from Manila.
 24, Alesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 24, Aeolus, British str., from Cardiff.
 24, Burdon, British str., from Cardiff.
 24, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 24, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 24, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 24, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Loksang, British str., from Bangkok.
 25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 25, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 25, Arratoon Apear, British str., from Calcutta.
 25, Bombay, British str., from Yokohama.
 25, Oldenburg, German str., from Hamburg.
 25, Tacoma, Amr. str., from Tacoma.
 26, Kashing, British str., from Canton.
 26, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 26, Kwongsong, British str., from Wuhu.
 26, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
 26, Kwilin, British str., from Wuhu.
 26, Wittenberg, German str., from Kobe.
 26, Swatow, German str., from Hoihow.
 26, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
 26, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

January—

DEPARTURES.

20, Massilla, British str., for Europe.
 20, Esang, British str., for Tamsui.
 20, Fausang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Siagan, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 20, Kasuga Maru Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 20, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 20, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
 20, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.
 21, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese steamer, for Canton.
 21, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Wo-sung, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 21, Coptic, British steamer, for San Francisco.
 21, Shangtung, British str., for Samarang.
 21, Fooksang, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Quarter, German steamer, for Saigon.

22, Sakura Maru, Jan. str., for Yokohama.
 22, Carlisle City, British str., for S. Francisco.
 22, Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
 22, Diamante, British steamer, for Manila.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 22, Gefion, German cruiser, for Manila.
 23, Breconshire, British str., for Tacoma.
 23, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 23, Peiyang, German str., for Saigon.
 23, Trym, Norw. str., for Hankow.
 23, Westphalia, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, King Arthur, British ship, for Tacoma.
 23, Antenor, British str., for London.
 23, Kaifong, British str., for Canton.
 23, Hainchi, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, Wuhu, British str., for Hongay.
 23, Chow a, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 24, Karlsruhe, German str., for Europe.
 24, Macduff, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 24, Warfield, British str., for Yokohama.
 24, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Akebono, Jap. torp. boat destr., for Japan.
 24, Szechuen, British str., for Yokohama.
 24, Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Kansu, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 25, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Cathay, Danish str., for Port Arthur.
 25, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 25, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Bisagno, Italian str., for Bombay.
 25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Taksang, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 26, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
 26, Loyal, German str., for Moji.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Guthrie*, from Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Rozario, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Mistre, Mrs. D. M. dos Doros Carlos and child, Messrs. Grafflin Cook, J. F. Bell, R. Glendinning, E. F. Alvares, Rev. S. Bernardo, J. da Silva, Loyne, Z. S. Ploi, J. Fernandez, Z. Carvaldio, J. S. Crabel, B. L. Maclures, F. Martin, C. N. da Silva, E. A. da Silva, J. dos Santos, Augusto Mines and G. S. Guerreiro.
 Per *Massilla*, from Shanghai, for London, Rev. and Mrs. Dempsey, Messrs. P. McCann, and D. C. Gibson; for Brindisi, Bishop Mou Anger, for Bombay Mr. M. S. Joseph. From Hongkong for London, Mr. W. H. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Cox, Messrs. S. H. Northcote, W. McWhirter, F. V. Edwards, H. B. Baty; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brown; for Brindisi, Mr. D. M. Baddwin, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Mr. H. Lord, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wilson; for Port Said, Mrs. C. H. Watt, Mrs. W. R. Foster; for Singapore, Messrs. A. T. Hart, D. McCredie, I. D. F. Lancing, Mr. and Mrs. Abbot Robinson, Mrs. and Miss Robinson, Messrs. P. W. G. Robinson, George Gilbert, Bell.
 Per *Bengal*, from Bombay, for Hongkong, Mr. B. Dadabhoi and servant; for Shanghai, Lieut. A. H. Johnson, Messrs. N. Sorabji and A. B. Vama; from Brindisi, for Yokohama, Dr. A. Yiorni, Count Rossi Martini; from London, Capt. and Mrs. Hamilton and child, Misses Stormer and Jackson, Messrs. Spratley, J. Laird, J. C. Buckingham and Capt. M. H. Scales; from Marseilles, Mrs. and Miss Ban non; for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. J. Aitken, Miss Whyte, Mrs. May Ward; for Shanghai, Messrs. T. Middleton and P. G. Nichol; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. W. Crowe, C. A. Swan; for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Philpott; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison; for Hongkong, from Brindisi, Mr. A. B. Grieve; for Yokohama, from Port Said, Dr. and Mrs. Barrett; for Shanghai, from Penang, Mr. Y. R. Clark; for Hongkong, from Singapore, Mr. T. H. Mahoney.
 Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Webber and two children, Mrs. Bevan, Messrs. A. Fuster, C. Aria, J. Ricallon, Joseph Konigs, Ottofy, and H. W. Newhall.
 Per *Karlsruhe*, from Yokohama, Dr. A. G. Smith, Mrs. C. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Leneagh, Mr. and Mrs. Feiber, Lieut. Z. Lee Hilmers, Messrs. M. Southey, Master W. G. Southey and C. C. Conley.
 Per *Yawata Maru*, from Nagasaki, Miss M. Thompson, Mr. F. R. Marshall, Mrs. C. F. de Farias, Mrs. Y. Shimada, Misses Y. Takahashi, I. Harada, W. Nagata, A. Ma, and Honda.
 Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Sherids, Rev. H. Thompson, Sch. Witt, Yang Kai Po, Wong Choi Hoo, Chit Seng, Familial and Salania.
 Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Miss MacFarlane, Mr. McLaughlin, Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Hall, J. C. Nicholls; from Yokohama, Mrs. Ottapay and son, Messrs. Hung Yick, and Chow Pao Shim; from Kobe, Messrs. C. A. Tomas and W. S. Clark; from Shanghai, Capt. W. T. Bland, R. N., Mrs. L. Harvey, Mrs. Raymond, Mr. R. Fuhrman, Mr. Seen Ying Chow, Messrs. E. Chasseler and Wittmuss, 10 intermediate and 251 steerage.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. J. Engelbrecht, Rev. and Mrs. Foster and child.
 Per *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Mr. C. J. Kershaw.
 Per *A. Ape*, from Calcutta, etc., Mr. and Mrs. C. Eden, Mr. Blake and 605 Chinese.
 Per *Bombay*, from Shanghai, for London, Mr. H. H. Robinson.
 Per *Oldenburg*, for Yokohama, from Hamburg, Mr. Adele Munro; from Southampton, Mrs. Clarke, Messrs. Armand Bang and Wright; for Shanghai, from Genoa, Messrs. Graf Prachma, H. Damerius, Pastor Wiss, Mrs. Venturini, Messrs. Kong, F. Dülberg, C. Grosse, A. B. Gaston; from Southampton, Messrs. Thos. Moigan, G. D. Vollack, T. McMillan, and W. Martinsen; from Penang, Mr. Marsch; for Nagasaki, from Colombo, Mr. G. Toppe, from Hamburg, Mr. Fritz Müller.
 DEPARTED.
 Per *Coptic*, for Shanghai, Mr. G. Diestel, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Wadman and Mr. Chas. Grant; for Kobe, Mr. Lo Pan Fuk; for Yokohama, Mr. A. H. Butler, Mr. H. E. Huyward, and Mr. J. Tornoe; for Honolulu Mrs. Mak Wan and Mrs. Chin Toy; for San Francisco, Com. R. Inch, U.S.N., Mr. L. B. Stoddard, Mr. Chew Seung, Mrs. Chin Li Shi, Mr. T. B. Smalley, Mr. A. G. Holscher, Mrs. S. J. Taylor, Mr. H. B. Taylor, Miss Foot and Maid, Miss Enid Foote, Miss Jessie Ure, Lt.-Com. Fiske, U.S.N., and Mr. John W. Wooden; for London, Col. Henry Elsdale, R.E., Chas. Horney, Mr. D. H. Frew, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Fearon, Miss Daisy Fearon.
 Per *Rohilla*, for Kobe, Mr. Lo Kit Ting; for Yokohama, Mr. J. C. Buckingham, Captain W. H. Scales, and Mr. C. A. Swan.
 Per *Bengal*, for Shanghai, Miss McCarthy and Mr. D. McPhail.
 Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Mr. E. H. Smith, Dr. A. G. Smith, and Mr. Markos Francois.
 Per *Karlsruhe*, from Japan, for Colombo, Baron and Baroness von Lendhaln; for Naples, Minister of Finance, Alexeiff; for Genoa, General Consul, Prince and Princess Anatole Lobanow, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baxter and child, Messrs. E. Koppe, N. Huelson, and G. Melchers; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. A. Koppel; for Port Said, Mr. A. Fontana; for London, Mr. and Mrs. A. Myers and child, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peace and child, Mrs. W. J. Andrews, Messrs. Coake and A. McKee; from Hongkong, for Singapore, Dr. Stübel and Mrs. McLellan; for Colombo, Messrs. Holliday and Moffatt; for Genoa, Dr. K. Weisse, Mr. H. Lütke, Rev. Thomson, and Mr. J. Braack; for London, Mrs. L. Dawson and child and Miss Parslow; for Southampton, Mr. J. Christie; for Hamburg, M. A. Anderson; for Antwerp, Mr. L. Leys; for Bremen, Mr. K. Muller; from Manila, for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Weber.
 Per *Oldenburg*, for Shanghai, from Southampton, Messrs. G. D. Vollack, J. McMillan, W. Martinson, and Thos. McCollan; from Genoa, Messrs. G. Prachma, H. Damerius, P. Webb, Krug, F. Dülberg, C. Grosse, A. B. Gaston, and Mrs. Venturini; from Penang, Mr. Marsch; for Nagasaki, from Hamburg, Mr. F. Muller; from Colombo, Mr. G. Toppe; for Yokohama, from Southampton, Mrs. Clarke, Messrs. A. Bang and Wright; from Hamburg, Mr. A. Munro; from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. A. Silva, G. Sutherland, and C. Eugelbrocht; for Nagasaki, Mr. H. H. Bodemann; for Hiogo, Mr. H. L. Helm, Mrs. F. S. Souza and baby, Mr. Wm. McGill, Mrs. F. X. dos Remedios, 2 babies andamah; for Yokohama, Mr. E. K. Flower.